■ Magazine
The resurrection of Juan de la Cruz

■ Metro / A24
Manila 'junkies' junk food for kids

■ Lifestyle / C1
Young dad, cool dad and other unconventional fathers

■ World / A12
Security breach could affect 40M credit card holders

■ Sports
Gooses, 2 longshots pace US Open

Mr. and Ms. magazine makes a bold comeback

TWENTY years ago, the weekly Mr. and Ms. magazine rose to the challenge of reporting sensational events, becoming one of the hottest publications in the country.

The magazine is staging an equally bold comeback—as a monthly glossy (adding to ours of the usual, lusty and spirit. Veteran journalist Eugenio Baron deposed, founding

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, June 19, 2005 ▲ 24 pages / vol. 29 / no. 191

www.inq7.net

Not funny at all, Palace says of cell phone text jokes

By Gil Cabacungan jr. and Nikko Dizon

THE MALACAÑANG palace

DAY BREAK!
Man and two swifts as witness to the awesome ceremony of sunrise at Hundred Islands in Alaminos, Pangasinan.

But where's Garcillano?

Speculations abound as ex-Comelec exec drops out of sight

By Grace C. Alhambra
With Miko Ordoñez Bernas
Nancy C. Carvajal and Jeannie Aning

BIG HOUSE in Cagayan de Oro City looked deserted after a man emerged from it yesterday carrying a travel bag before riding off in a Pajero. An incognito informant said he was indeed in the city, having checked into an inexpensive hotel, but that was days ago.

Some opposition members speculated—without backing up their theories—that he planned to leave for the United States. His former boss, Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos said he did not know where he was and added: "I am not his keeper."

One opposition lawmaker said he had been seen in Tagaytay.

Inclusive at his hometown of Cagayan City said they had not seen him since May 10, when he briefly dropped by.

As where is former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano—the man who might hold the answers to intriguing questions raised in allegedly intercepted conversations between him and President Macapagal-Arroyo?

The man who might be able to say whether or not Mr. Arroyo was the woman in his supposedly talking with on the potentially-explosive tape?

No less than five House committees, which will hold hearings tomorrow on the authenticity of the controversial tape supposedly dealing with attempts to rig the results of the May 2004 elections, want to question him.

One "lead" resulted into this act?

"What I know is that he is still here," an official of a government agency in Cagayan de Oro told the Inquirer yesterday.

According to the business tycoon who knows Garcillano's wife, the former poll official stayed for several days at the family's 7-hectare farm in Gingoog, Misamis Oriental.

This he denied in Cagayan de Oro, checking in at the Camelia Hotel in Cagayan Market, the "Divisoria" of the city, accompanied by seven people and is believed to be also with his wife Conchito.

The low-key hotel near Garcillano's favorite hangout whenever he was in town and "he is known to the hotel," said the official, requesting anonymity.

The Inquirer checked with the hotel but a man at the front desk said: "There's no Garcillano here."

Some 30 minutes before the Inquirer arrived at his Cagayan de Oro hotel yesterday, an old model Mitsubishi Pajero driven off, neighbors said. The Inquirer closely on Gaerlan Tampoong corner Amanbo Bres streets in the old city's RDS intersection.

"The driver was carrying on traveling

Why Cory paid Susan a visit

By Fe Zamora

FORMER President Cory Aquino might be seeing a "responsible leader" in Susan Roces and this may explain why the woman who stands as the symbol of democracy's return to the Philippines paid her a visit, Aquino's former media adviser, chief Billy Esposo said.

"Cory is committed to the concept of democracy and I think that she's trying to gather forces who could provide a responsible leadership through constitutional means," Esposo told the Inquirer yesterday.

"She must be seeing one in Susan."

Esposo was not present at Thursday's meeting and offered his views based on what he knew of Aquino from his having worked with her.

Aquino's spokesperson, Jaydee Hamilton, said the former President and the widow of opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. did not discuss politics during their one-hour meeting at the Poe home in Greenhills.

"It was a purely social and personal call," Hamilton said.

But the meeting between the two said, one—at a time when President Macapagal-Arroyo is rallying allies for support while battling a political crisis spawned by the release of a controversial tape dealing with alleged vote fraud—raised questions about whether it bore any political significance.

A senior Malacañang official appeared to downplay the meeting.

"The explanation is sufficient. It is a mere social call. We don't want mystery intrigues or speculations," said Federal Casalin, presidential adviser on political affairs.

Hamilton said Aquino initiated the meeting after she heard a report that politicians were using the Roces.

"She just decided to see her fish dog," Hamilton said.

She said the former president had planned to see Roces during the wake of her husband at the Sto. Domingo Church last December. But Aquino deferred her plans because her daughter Kris, a movie actress, could not join her.

Hamilton said Aquino was impressed with Roces for calling for unity and refusing any offer former National Bureau of Investigation deputy chief Samuel Dig-ilo chood on June 24 for he had the "truth or of all topics" of Mr. Arroyo's alleged

Salonga to GMA: Be not afraid to tell the truth

By Doris Z. Pazzibugan
and Juliet Labog-Javellana

FERDINAN Jovito Salonga has a message for the beleaguered President Macapagal-Arroyo: Be not afraid.

According to the former Senate president, Mrs. Arroyo should not fear telling the truth about her alleged phone conversation with an election official suggesting poll fraud. He said Mr. Arroyo's stonewalling in the face of the grassroots outcry of her presidency only strengthened "the perception that indeed the tape, the alleged conversation, contains (the truth)."

Salonga said that depending on Mr. Arroyo's explanation, the public might yet decide to "forgive" her, as the American people forgave her classmate, former US President Bill Clinton.

"In my mind, she will have a liberating experience with the truth," Salonga said in an interview yesterday. "Since she is having a dilemma, she cannot continue her silence. It's better [to tell the truth]... it may be painful in the beginning but it will be a liberating experience. And it may be redemptive."

Salonga, who, at 80, heads the civic groups Bantay Katarungan and Bantay Eleksi, cited a post-election essay story by Time magazine where Mr. Arroyo was

Continente: A convict now, fulltime pa soon

By Jacelyn R. Uy

IN 2007 nine does, Romeo Continente becomes a free man. And for him, freedom means becoming a full-time father to his 9-year-old son.

Continente, 42, one of two men convicted in the killing of US Army Col. James Rowe in 1989, is set to be released from the New Bilibid Prisons (NBP) in Muntinlupa on June 28. Bureau of Corrections records show that he has served the maximum sentence of 16 years.

"I don't know if my son fully understands the situation. But last Monday he told me that when I am freed, we would go on a trip around the [municipality]."

Continente told the Inquirer yesterday after the Mass for Justice and Freedom celebrated at the NBP Maximum Compound Hospital that he has no other political prisoners awaiting release.

The Mass was organized by his wife, Imelda, along with her colleagues in the human rights group Karapatan.

It was on March 24, 1990, that Continente married Imelda, who had earlier offered her medical services during the national hunger strike staged by political prisoners. The wedding ceremony was held inside the NBP.

Two years later, they had a son, but Continente's role as a father was curtailed

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HERO
Rizal Shrine staff member Antonio Ravanera dons a costume of Dr. Jose Rizal at Fort Santiago in Manila, where the national hero spent his last days in a prison cell before the 149th anniversary of the Luneta. Today would have been Rizal's 144th birthday.

A1
WEATHER FORECAST
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 2003
Second FRONTPAGE

Laarni used to distract public, says opposition

By Philip C. Tubeza
and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

OPPOSITION lawmakers yesterday accused the palace of trying to divert public attention away from President Macapagal-Arroyo's plight when it leaked a sentence of former President Joseph Estrada to the condescension tape purporting to show Mrs Arroyo colluded in the May 2004 elections.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero and Bandarayan party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran said the accusations against Lauzel Rasiguez should not distract the public from the issue of Mrs Arroyo's silence on the tape.

"Definitely, it's a diversionary tactic but it should not lead us to lose our focus," Escudero said. "Whatever is the source of the tape is secondary. What is at issue is its substance. We should not close in on it" he added.

On Friday, Philippine Territorial Defense Secretary Narciso Cabahug, quoting from the affidavit of intelligence officer Maj. Hall Bobis, said that Rasiguez had provided the P1 million cash to Bobis by lawyer Samuel Ong before the latter accompanying to those that Mr. Arroyo had cheated to win last year's election and supported his charges that her family stole Erap's painkilling jewels.

The President has dragged off the charges and said she would not attend congressional hearings to probe the allegations. She has accused the opposition of sabotaging the economy in their efforts to topple her.

Roilo said the MILF was not concerned with the survival of the Arroyo administration as the joint made in previous peace talks with the government "would not be lost."

"Whatever else in Mindanao is only incidental. We believe that they will continue to honor and respect the agreements already made in three successive administrations of the government," he said.

Roilo said he had faxed a letter to the governments of Malaysia, Brunei and other member-countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) had formed the talks, assuring existing agreements would be respected.

He said the opposition had not approached the MILF leadership (or help in unseating Ms Arroyo) but considered that they could approach individual MILF commanders without informing anyone.

The government has sealed arrangements with the rebels and peace talks are expected to be "the final stage" in Nadir Langda, last ranked student nationwide. - AFP

FATHERS AND PENSIONS
Luis Carlos Duarte tries to get his one-year-old son, Shawn Kevin Alvaz, accustomed with a penguin at the Harrison Plaza yesterday. The display of aquatic birds was part of Father's Day celebrations at the mall. The Eco Environment Foundation brought the penguins to Luzon and exhibited them as part of its campaign to protect species and their habitats and promote a clean environment. RAY LIBANAN

People smart enough to see truth—Noli

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE POLITICAL turmoil brought about by the winning scandal were not be enough to spark another people power revolt to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo, Vice President Noli de Castro said yesterday.

De Castro, who has declared he would stand by the President up to the end of her term in 2010, said the opposition should not underestimate the people or their intelligence enough to distract the truth from lies.

"There won't be a repeat of the Edsa Revolution. Our citizens are intelligent. That will not happen again," De Castro said in an interview in which he spoke mostly in Filipino.

De Castro is pushed out that all the accusations by a powerful people power speech, he was almost in the position of silence.

He said both the military and the police were behind the President. Most of the people he talked to, particularly rural folk, were concerned about the implementation of the President's rural reform agenda and economic progress, not her alleged wiretapped conversations with an election official, De Castro said.

"To me, there is no reason to have another Edsa. It is also not good or desirable to have any more Edsas in which much of the time spent is absent. It is the becomes ineffective," he said.

Asked why the opposition has kept on pressing the President to talk about the wiretapping issue, De Castro said: "You know, the President has been in office for only a year. Maybe they are impatient. They want to take over so soon. Why don't they wait until 2004?"

Asked if he was willing to run for that long, De Castro said he was not even sure if he would run for President then.

"Between now and 2010, there will be many political issues that will emerge and would be wanting to run. Many things can still happen. It's too early to talk. As far as I'm concerned, I will just do my work," he said.

Asked who would be behind the campaign, De Castro said it could be anyone who had the high-tech equipment and the motive.

On rumors that martial law would be declared on June 12, the day the President traditionally delivers the Vice President said: "Good grief! We don't really believe that!"

Scandals won't affect talks — MILF

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – Department sources in settlement and signed President Macapagal-Arroyo will not allow the ongoing peace talks with Moro separatists in the south, a senior spokesperson said Saturday.

Eid Kabalu, the spokesperson of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), said the controversies roiling in Manila were just "internal matters" to be resolved by the government.

"We are taking a hands-off stance," Kabalu told reporters in this city. "We are not interfering on the issues that are besieging the Arroyo administration. We will not take part in it."

He was referring to the recent releasing of wiretapped conversations

Senate to resume 'jueteng' probe despite Palace plea

By John Laboy Javellana

THE SENATE after all will not heed Malacañang's plea to scrap its hearings on the "jueteng" payola scandal into which members of the First Family have been dragged.

After a two-week break, the Senate is set to resume on Friday its investigation into numerous questions still to be answered in government.

Senate Minority, secretary of the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs, which is conducting the joint hearing investigation with the committees on games, amusement and sports, said testimonies had been sent out for the fourth Senate hearing.

Biazon said that, so far, no member of the committee had proposed terminating the hearings despite Malacañang's appeal that the investigation be brought to an end.

Biazon said Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz was expected to present his new witnesses on Friday but said that as in the previous three hearings, the committee had not been furnished their names in advance.

Drilon said that one of the witnesses would implicate a "rather higher influential person," while the other witness would corroborate the testimonies of those earlier witnesses.

A source privy to the names said the bigwig that the two witnesses would reveal the involvement of two members of the President's family in jueteng.

Biazon said all the four witnesses brought by Cruz to the previous hearings were invited to return.

Administration opposition Wilfredo Mayo, Supreme Richard Gutierrez and Aiko Rivera said Representa Imelda Cruz had implicated President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband Mike, son Mikey and brother-in-law Ignacio Arroyo in the illegal numbers game.

Mayo also said retired Chief Supt. Hortensio Ilustrisimo had been implicated in the bigwig after he was tagged by Cruz as the one who was in charge of collecting jueteng payola in Bicol for certain personalities, including Mikey and Iggy Arroyo.

Cruz said Ilustrisimo used her bank accounts to launder the payola from jueteng operations in Bicol amounting to P1 million a month. Cruz testified that one time in December last year, Ilustrisimo asked her to deliver P900,000 to Mikey and Iggy Arroyo at the House of Representatives.

The report prompted Mikey and Iggy Arroyo to file two counterbillion-peso libel cases against Cruz. Mikey later filed an indefinite leave of absence from Congress.

Tape may be aired — NTC, KBP

MEIR from of a return to the days of media censorship, the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) and the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) have met to clarify certain issues concerning media handling of the wiretapping scandal involving President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Following a meeting between NTC commissioner Ronald Ollesa Solis and KBP president Eugenio L. Bocalan, the two issued a two-page eight-point joint statement on Thursday which the latter officials described as "a call for solidarity, responsible journalism, and the observance of fair and fair radio and television codes."

The two agreed that the airing of the wiretapped tapes would be allowed "as the TV networks must specify that it was from 'tape' and not 'live' interview," said Anne Throw, news manager of ABC-5, one of the first networks to air excerpts of the tape.

The NTC came under criticism earlier when it issued a directive against the airing of the allegedly wiretapped conversation in which the President and election official Virgilio Garcillano supposedly talked about fixing the 2004 election.

In the joint statement, the NTC denied that it had issued "any MO or order constituting a restraint of press freedom or censorship" or that it intended to limit or control interviews with opposition members.

It said it was merely asking that "the exercise of press freedom is done responsibly."

"This is not a gag order. We are not making threats or closing any TV network that may commit violations. We would still adhere to the legal process," Ollesa said in an interview.

He stressed that the NTC only requested that "no distasteful or willful expression is made in the treatment of news or commentaries."

"It should be made clear that this tape is not authenticated and we cannot make conclusions as to its authenticity," Ollesa said.

Reported here Roger Jr.

Sunday SPORTS

WHAT'S INSIDE

TNT, San Miguel face weary rivals

WITH fresh legs and runs of over, Talk 'N Text and San Miguel Beer begin their quest for final shots against a pair of playoff-hardened opponents at the start of the Coca-Cola/Metrobank PBA Fiesta Conference semifinals today at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Phone Pals, who emerged the top seed after the eliminations, will be coming off a three-week break when they face the Shell Turbochargers in Game 1 of their best-of-five semifinal series at 4:15 p.m.

The Boosters, ranked second in the eliminations after surviving a one-game playoff against Alaska, meanwhile, tackle at 6:30 p.m. a Red Bull squad that played for three straight days to topple the third-seeded Aces in five quarters.

The Turbochargers rose from the depths of ear pulling off one reversal after the other in the wild-card round and the quarterfinals to earn a return ticket against the same team that eliminated them in the semis last conference.

After overcoming the Love Bonito's team-to-beat advantage, coach Leo Austria and the sixth-ranked Turbochargers slammed the semifinal door on the Purefoods TJ Hotdogs by winning the decider of their best-of-three quarterfinal affair.

"Other than coming over-eager against TNT in Game 1, we also want to prove that Shell really belongs in this league," said Austria, reserving no rancor that the franchise is up for sale.

Shell officials had denied the allegations, however.

The Phone Pals will continue to miss Asi Taulava, whose request for reinstatement following a favorable decision by an appellate court was thrashed down by league second-guessing a valuable source.

"We kept ourselves in shape during the break," said Talk 'N Text coach Joel Banal yesterday. "I hope we could continue to come in as steady when we grabbed the No. 1 seed going into the semifinals."

The Phone Pals are fresh from a pair of tuneup games, which they both lost, against the Sydney Kings in Australia.

In the Fiesta Cup last year, San Miguel ended the No. 1 ranking after the eliminations but was booted out in the playoffs despite upsetting a better-seeded opponent.

"It was a different format then. This is a series, assuming a team still has enough time to adjust and recover from a setback," said San Miguel Beer coach Jong Uichico.

Danny Seigle, who sweated it out in the preliminary round, is expected to rejoin the Beermen.

"I hope (the) rest will give us enough time to recover from that grueling series. And just like against Alaska, it will be again a question of who coaches better," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao. —Jane Sarmiento

SEAG venues ready—Ramirez

By Mars Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE Sports Commission chair Butch Ramirez yesterday said repairs and refurbishing jobs of government-owned facilities to be used for the ensuing Southeast Asian Games are going ahead of schedule.

Most of them are actually ready, except for a few in Bacolod City and the old Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, which Ramirez guarantees will be completed way ahead of the start of the Games on Dec. 27 Dec. 5.

The former PSC officer-in-charge conducted an ocular inspection of the sites this venues in Bacolod last week and will fly to Cebu in the next few days to check on the venues there.

Ramirez said that the government was able to save time and money by organizing steering teams instead of building new ones.

Of the venues in Bacolod, the Panglaan Sports Center, where men's football will be held, needs extensive repairs. Paglaan is expected to use up P30 million of the P100 million budget the city is asking to build a total of five venues, the others being boxing, beach volleyball, indoor volleyball and weightlifting.

Cebu will host seven events—judo, taekwondo, karatedo, sepak takraw, pencak silat, shooting sports and cycling.

"The impression I am getting is that the venues outside Metro Manila and the local government's preparation are going smoothly," said Ramirez, who used to be part of the Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee.

RP wins another award at World Expo in Japan

By Jerome Aning

THE PHILIPPINES has won a second award in the ongoing World Expo 2005 in Aichi, Japan, the latest for a technological innovation that uses coconut fiber to control soil erosion and promote re-greening.

Dr. Antero Arboleda, dean of the Bicol University College of Agriculture, received the Global 100 Eco-Tech Awards which aims at promoting the role of technology in sustainable development and protection of the environment.

"Dr. Arboleda gets the award, and the Philippines the bronze," said Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano in other cited the nation's victory as a boost to the government's campaign to promote the country as a tourist destination in Japanese capitals.

Arboleda pioneered the use of coconut coir geotextile rolls, which are installed on eroded slopes and other degraded lands upon to control soil runoff and promote re-greening by promoting vegetative growth.

Geotextile, which is made of woven and fibre, degrades naturally as a result the different plants to "recolonize" the soil. Similar organic materials like straw biomatters, hay and jute degrade much too fast, particularly in tropical climates.

Undersecretary Manuel Gaite of the Department of Trade and Industry and the Director and agency CEO, Arboleda's Jakiden Enterprises was able to work with another Guimaras company, Bioteknon, to develop the coconut fiber rolls and geotextile mats.

Arboleda's invention has found an ecologically and economically beneficial use for the country's six billion kilos of coconut husks that constitute the bulk of farm wastes, which could be harmful to the environment if burned or dumped into watercourses.

A full-size 30m plant employs around 40 people at the two workers. The plant also extracts fiber running small processing activities in low-income households in the community. One factory can support 200 to 300 retainers and 75 weavers.

A household completing 360 rolls in three hours a day can earn as much as P6,772 each month, which is 297 percent above the regional minimum wage.

Net earning households on the other hand, can earn as much as P5,616 or 246 percent above the regional minimum wage for producing only 3.6 rolls a day.

Arboleda's invention was one of the natural materials used in the design of the Philippine pavilion at the expo structure. It contributed to the country's winning its first award, the Banner's Window Award, for encouraging people to be in visual and technological harmony with nature.

RP honors Korean War vets

AFTER almost 55 years, the Philippines still finally saved its first monument honoring the 7,000 Filipino soldiers who fought in defend South Korea in the bloody Korean War in the early 1950s.

The "Philippine Monument," located at Mendiola Heights in Mendiola City, marks the Philippines' involvement in an only conventional war since 1945.

Standing some 20 feet tall, the monument is crowned by marble and flame sculpture.

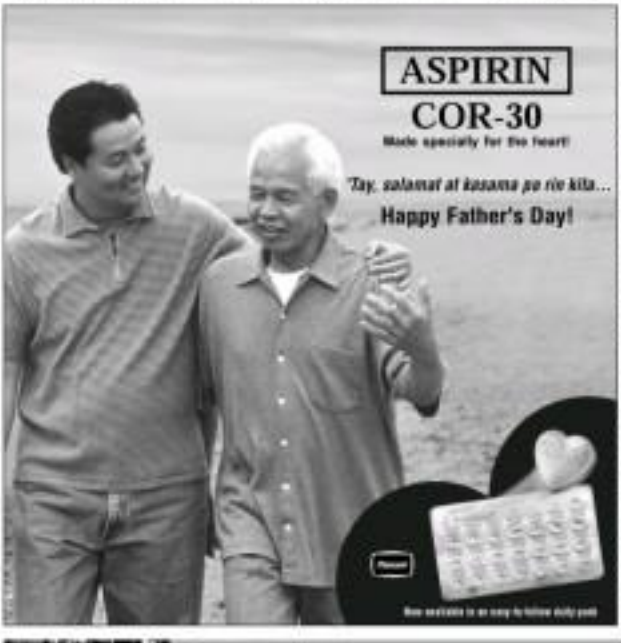
Inscribed on metal plaques at the monument's base is the history of the Philippines' participation in the Korean War and nail letters of the five Battalion Combat Team (PCT) that served in Korea from 1950 to 1953.

The unveiling rites set at 9 a.m. on June 25 will be attended by South Korean ambassador Ki Dong-Hwan, Mayor Jejomar Binay, Rep. Renato Golez and hero Raul Hiao, sculptor of the monument's colossal frame.

Coinciding with the unveiling will be the unveiling the 50th anniversary of the start of the Korean War and the presentation of new scholars of the Seoul scholarship program.

The Mendiola Monument is a joint effort of the DOE of, Veterans Association Inc. (the Association of Korean War veterans), Mendiola City and the Korean community in the Philippines.

The word "Mendiola" is derived from the words Mendian and Ensio, before their deployment to Korea, at the 1950s. PCTs trained exclusively for mountain combat in Mendiola, whose rolling hills and rugged terrain resembled that in Korea.



CEBU BUSINESS MONTH
Whole Month of June | Cebu Province
This annual event showcases a series of exhibits, trade fairs, special events, conventions, conferences, and other activities carried out in celebration of the province's Charter Anniversary. Contact: Mr. Francis Pedrosa, Chairman, CEB St. Cebu Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Sr. (032) 231 1405 local 108

ARAW NG CITESEKTO
Kite-flying | June 12-20 | Citesekto City
This is the Citesekto Anniversary of Citesekto City. Events slated this year are: Drum & Bugle Competition, Search Competition, Tompong Festival, Cultural Presentation, and Street Dancing Parade. Contact: Mr. Benjamin N. Alpuerto, Supervising Tourism Operations Officer, Office of the Mayor, Citesekto City, Ex., (064) 427 7650

MUDPACK FESTIVAL
June 1-31 | Mineral Regions Residential
This festival is a significant celebration of man's return to primitive time when he was closer to nature. It is characterized by a mesmerizing rituals with body covered with mudpack and his healing powers of Mambukal area.
Contact: Mrs. Jennifer Angeles Tourism Officer, Office of the Mayor, Municipality of Murcia, Ex., (034) 460 2101 or Fax: (034) 460 2166

PILI FESTIVAL
June 10-25 | Somegon City
The primary purpose of this festival is to emphasize the importance of the "Pili" an indigenous crop of the Bicol region, and to increase the awareness of the public on its economic importance.
Contact: Office of the Mayor, Somegon City, Ex., (052) 411 2181 / 411 7555 / 411 2088 or DOT Regional Office V

MATTAHI MATTAHI SAN JUAN FIESTA
June 24 | San Juan, Metro Manila
A fiesta in honor of Saint John the Baptist characterized by street dancing with mixing of water and rice wine parade accompanied by free samples and refreshments.
Contact: San Juan Tourism Office (02) 724-8864 or Public Information Office (02) 721-1800 local 113

PARADA NG LECHON
June 24 | Balayan, Batangas
This is a festival that coincides with the Feast of Saint John the Baptist characterized by a parade of roasted pigs (lechon) dressed in fruits-crowning costumes and designs.
Contact: DOT Regional Office IV-

SAN JUAN NGBOKLABOKAN
June 24 | Mandaue, Cebu
An annual event held in honor of Saint John the Baptist featuring water sports activities like boat races, wood pole sports, floral parade/procession and search for Miss Mandaue-Mujeres 2005.
Contact: Mr. Celestino Chan III, Tourism Officer, Provincial Tourism Office, Ex., (032) 267-1587 local/ 32 or 33

PISTAHAN FESTIVAL
June 24-25 | Province of Batanes
This is the grand wrapping celebration for the fiestas as they celebrate the Feast of Saint John the Baptist and the grand opening of the Chamber of Commerce at the service of the Batanes Consolidated.
Contact: Mr. Ramon Ibañez, Provincial Tourism Officer, Province of Batanes, Ex., (032) 529-4565 or CP: (0906) 854 9639

PAGAYAK SOBS NGBAO NAC CIGAYAN
June 24 – July 04 | Provincial Capitol Grounds Cagayan de Oro
This regional event will showcase the investment opportunities, products, and tourist attractions of the 4th Cagayan Valley Region. It brings together the five provinces of Batanes, Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino and the two cities of Cauayan, Isabela and Tuguegarao in the Province. Also highlighted are Cagayan de Oro's Golden Anniversary.
Contact: Dr. Rolando G. Dela, Regional Director, DOT Region 02, (078) 844 3611 / 856 2430 or CP: (0916) 305 0326

KALIGUIAN FESTIVAL
June 24-25 | Kaliguian, Nueva Ecija
This is a yearly festivity in honor of Saint John the Baptist highlighted by the Search for the Perlas ng Kaliguian Beauty Pageant and Grand Parade.
Contact: Ms. Clara Sandoval, Provincial Tourism Officer of Nueva Ecija, Ex., (044) 311-2367

APUNG SIU FLUVIAL FESTIVAL
June 24 | Dapitan City
The most awaited activity of the festival is the colorful boat procession wherein the image of Saint Peter is brought down in a floral barge on the Dapitan River while a colorful fluvial parade participants await the image.
Contact: Office of the Mayor, (065) 212-2214 / (065) 212-3222

PINAGKUNGKUNGAN FESTIVAL 2005
June 25, 9am | Lapu-Lapu Memorial Cemetery, Opon, Cebu
This is a cultural parade and street dancing competition showcasing the 1st Philippine Festival of Festivals and the 25th Cebu Pinagkungkungan Festival of Festivals.
Contact: DOT Regional Office VII

BANDUDO FESTIVAL
June 25 | Province of Tagbilaran City, Bohol
This is the annual commemoration of the Moro Conquest between Bohol Islanders and Moslem Datus led by Datu Pagbuaya. It is highlighted by the Sandugo Street Dancing & Mardi Gras festivities.
Contact: Mr. Ben Ibañez, Provincial Tourism Office, Ex., (038) 411 2666

ARAW NG DAVAO DEL NORTE / ARAW NG DAVAO ORIENTAL / ARAW NG DAVAO DEL SUR
July 01 | Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental, and Davao del Sur
An event commemorating the celebration of the founding of Davao del Norte and Davao Oriental by Rep. Santiago Bebot Gaerlan & Mayor Jose Maderazo.
Contact: Davao del Norte Governor's Office (0) (084) 216-5401 / 216-3611 / 216-3844 or Davao del Sur Governor's Office (0) (082) 553-2015 / 553-2767

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF PAT
July 01 | Iloilo City
This is the annual feast day of the Miraculous Image of Our Lady of Pat. It is an honorary citizen of Iloilo City and a patron saint to the Basilica Minore of Pat to give thanksgiving.
Contact: Mr. Rolando G. Dela, Regional Director, DOT Region 02, (078) 844 3611 / 856 2430 or CP: (0916) 305 0326

SAGAYAN FESTIVAL
July 02, 8am | Lanao del Norte
This is a cultural event from Lanao Meranaos and demonstrates the rural community's economic activities.
Contact: Gov. Imelda G. Dimaporo, Lanao del Norte Provincial Tourism Officer, Ex., (063) 341-1541 or Cell: (0919) 624 3036

TINALAK FESTIVAL
July 04-10 | Koronadal City
This is an annual celebration in South Cotabato which demonstrates the importance and significance of the Tinalak cloth as the cultural image of South Cotabato.
Contact: Mr. Cesar Lopez, Tourism Officer, Office of the Provincial Planning and Development Office, South Cotabato Commission, Telefax: (083) 228-3447

LIMON HARVEY FESTIVAL
July 10-20 | Limon, Albay
This festival celebrates the town's main source of living (farm) or rice. It features the town as the "rice granary of Albay."
Contact: Office of the Mayor, Limon, Albay, Ex., (054) 455-2100

KINABINTIS FESTIVAL
July 24-27 | Dapitan City
This is an annual weeklong street dancing presentation of Dapitanon customs and traditions for this city. This is highlighted by a street dancing in honor of Saint James the Greater.
Contact: Mr. Rodrigo Pontao, Tourism Officer of Dapitan City, Ex., (065) 212-2222

MOLO DISTRICT FIESTA
July 25 | Molo, Iloilo City
This is a celebration in honor of Saint Anne.
Contact: Mayor Jerry Treñas, City Hall, Iloilo City, Ex., (033) 337-3711 / 337-3016

ASAYAN FESTIVAL
July 31 | Buayan City
This is a thanksgiving festivity of Iligan City, Social Investigation, and public parade in honor of Saint Anne, Patroness of Iligan's Bridge.
Contact: Mrs. Amelia Figueroa, City Tourism Officer, Ex., (063) 221-4041 or Fax: (063) 341-1119

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Contact: Regional Monitoring Staff, Telefax: 524-24-70 or Concerned DOT Regional Offices

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1. REGION VI SHOWCASE: Western Visayas' Kasuguran sa (Dominguez Pamana) - History, Arts & Culture - June 16 to 26, 2005
2. REGION IX SHOWCASE: "Southern Tagalog Great Outdoor Adventure" - July 08-10, 2005

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3 oil firms increase pump prices by P.50

By Abigail L. Ho

OIL FIRMS Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Caltex Philippines Inc. and Total (Philippines) Corp. yesterday raised the pump prices of their gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos a liter, citing escalating prices of the world market.

Total increased its prices effective 6 a.m. yesterday while Shell and Caltex raised their prices at noon.

Other oil firms, including refiner Petron Corp., have yet to make their announcements as of press time.

Three oil players Eastern Petroleum Corp., Isarog Petroleum Corp. and Viking Oil said they would wait for their other competitors, particularly the big players, to act before making a final decision on price adjustments.

Last week, oil companies jacked up fuel prices by 50 centavos a liter.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said he could not be persuaded at this time as world oil prices had again started to skyrocket.

However, another hiatus also had to be considered, he said.

Data from the Department of Energy showed that the benchmark Dubai crude soared to a new average of $60.08 a barrel, more than $5 higher than the May average of $54.48 a barrel.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products likewise surged to an average of $57.87 a barrel in the first 15 days of June, after factoring up to a June 16 spot price of $59.83 a barrel. Last month's average was placed at $54.46 a barrel.

MOPS-based diesel also climbed to a June 1-16 average of $50.12/a barrel, more than $7 higher than the $42.74-a-barrel average posted last month. The June 16 spot price hit $53.54 a barrel.

Premium unleaded gasoline now retails in between P29.70 and P31.67 a liter, diesel at between P27.15 and P28.50 a liter, and kerosene at between P28.70 and P30.56 a liter.

BACK IN THE SERVICE

Military personnel who took part in the Oakwood mutiny of July 2003 wend their way to the grandstand at Camp Aguinaldo for their graduation from a nine-week refresher course prior to their rejoining the Armed Forces. The enlisted men who joined the attempted coup were meted out sanctions while their officers still face charges.

Tax evasion costs P85B yearly–study

THE PHILIPPINES loses just over P85 billion ($1.53 billion) a year to income tax evasion, a recent study showed, underlining the huge scale of tax slacking in the country.

The figure is equivalent to almost 40 percent of the country's budget deficit of P187 billion last year.

The National Tax Research Center said its study showed that unpaid taxes by salaried workers, businesses and self-employed individuals came to an annual average of P85.3 billion between 1998 and 2002.

Lina Inowza, the center's executive director, told Reuters there were signs of improvement this year thanks to a new drive against tax evasion by the government's main tax agency, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, and the Department of Finance.

"If there is less cheating now, it might have lowered out of four," Inowza said.

The BIR said on Thursday it had filed tax evasion charges against the agriculture secretary, Arthur Yap, the highest profile target so far in its drive after Tax Enablers (BAIR) campaign.

The drive, which has featured tax evasion charges against several celebrities this year, including Regine Velasquez, Richard Gomez and Judy Ann Santos, was credited with helping raise tax collections to a record high in April, leaving the government with its first monthly budget surplus in four years.

Inowza said the center's study showed businesses and self-employed individuals were the worst tax offenders, taking advantage of the country's voluntary tax declaration system.

The gap between potential collections and actual collections was 68.8 percent for self-employed taxpayers, compared to just 7 percent for salaried workers. Businesses had a tax gap of 37.7 percent. Reuters

Minimum wage hiked in Ilocos

THE REGIONAL wage board in Ilocos on Friday granted workers in the region a minimum wage hike in the form of an additional P15 cost-of-living allowance.

The Department of Labor and Employment said the wage order would be published June 20 and would take effect on July 5.

Region 1 became the last of the country's 16 regions to implement a wage hike.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas told a forum of businessmen last week that the wage orders were expected to benefit some five million workers in the minimum wage earning category nationwide.

Sto. Tomas urged all sectors to support compliance with the increase in wages that were carefully discussed with the tripartite partners and should strengthen productivity and economic recovery.

Since the beginning of June, the various regional tripartite wage and productivity boards have granted agricultural and non-agricultural workers increases in their basic pay. Cola or both. Most of the wage orders took effect last week while others will be implemented at the end of June.

But other regions will implement the increase in two installments with the second one taking effect early next year.

Many workers' groups have complained that the increases granted by the RTWPBs were small and fell far from the living wage set by the government.

The wage orders may be appealed to the National Wages and Productivity Commission, which can modify the increases.

On May 3, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the boards to consider raising the minimum wage in the light of the increases in fuel prices and transportation fares and the looming implementation of the expanded value added tax (VAT). Jerome Aning

But where's Garcillano?

From page A1

bag when he came out from the house and then proceeded to the car," the neighbor, who has been a resident of the area for more than 20 years, told the Inquirer.

The neighbor, who asked not to be named, said he saw Garcillano for the last month before the tape controversy exploded. He said he had not seen him all week.

Chummy with people

The neighbor said Garcillano and his wife lived in the subdivision only sometime in 1995 when the ex-commissioner was the Comelec regional director in Northern Mindanao.

"I was only told and his wife who had been living there before he went to Manila [for] his new post," said the neighbor.

He said the wife even became an officer of the homeowners association but was not exactly popular with her neighbors.

In contrast, he said, Garcillano mingled more often with the neighbors, but was quite picky about people, he said.

He said until that daylong election, especially last year, neighbors would notice lots of vehicles parked inside the subdivision.

The neighbor also said he learned that Garcillano had placed a counselor to a newly built house in a millionaire subdivision in Upper Bulatong in Cagayan de Oro.

Information from the Comelec indicated that Garcillano also served as Northern Mindanao regional director from 1998 until 2000, under the Marcos administration. He had also been assigned to Comelec offices in Sikoton and Central Mindanao.

A security guard said he only knew that a "Comelec" had lived in Garcillano's house.

"I have noticed that she is the only one who regularly stays in the house," the guard on duty said.

Garcillano was reportedly seen by some radio reporters at the Lumbia Airport of Cagayan de Oro on Wednesday, a day before Mr Arroyo arrived for a visit. He was also reportedly seen at a city mall on Thursday night.

Alarico said he last spoke with Garcillano before noon on June 8 when he signed Garcillano's courier authority to the Southern Tagalog and Bicol regions. Garcillano's last stop was Batangas.

The Comelec chair expressed surprise when told of reports that Garcillano had been seen in Bukidnon.

Alarico surprised

"Really? I do not know... I was calling him but I couldn't reach him," Alarico said.

He said he tried to reach Garcillano when the latter's appointment lapsed after Congress by passed his confirmation.

Former Comelec chair Sarmiento Demetrio, a lawyer for the late opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., said her information was that Garcillano was going ready to leave for the United States.

She said that Garcillano planned to go the Sea Rinabula resort and then proceed to the United States, where his adopted daughter Dr Ia'ne lives.

Demetrio did not say how and where she got her information.

'Don't let him go'

"I have received information that Garcillano is now in Cagayan de Oro and would leave the country through the backdoor," Demetrio said.

Demetrio has urged Mr Arroyo not to let Garcillano leave the country. She also challenged Garcillano to "come forward to refute my statement that it was him on the tape."

She said she was certain that it was Garcillano's voice on the tape because, as a former Comelec chair, she had talked to him a lot when he was a Comelec regional director.

Former opposition Sen. Francisco Tatad said that "a highly placed government source" had also confirmed to the political opposition that Garcillano contacted Ms Arroyo during her visit to Cagayan de Oro to ask her "just to listen" to tape the country.

Phone off

Sen Juan Miguel Joseph Herse Jr's Epsilon was off contact. Herse Joseph Zubiri claimed the information he had was that Malacañang told Garcillano to leave the country to avoid being questioned about the tape.

"That comes from an A-1 source," Epsilon said on the phone.

Garcillano's cell phone has been inactive the past week. Even his active subordinates in the Comelec had no idea where he was.

His executive secretary, Evelyn Peralta, had taken a vacation and also could not be reached.

More compliance agreed that Garcillano should show up and testify about the issues facing him.

"What can he gain by hiding? If he disappears, it would only be construed by the public as an admission of his guilt, even if many of us here in the Comelec don't believe the allegations," one employee said.

Another employee said: "If he comes out and stands by his statement that he was not involved, then the Comelec's image would no longer suffer. We, ordinary staff who face the public daily, are being regarded as clients."

Asked if the Comelec was active in looking for Garcillano, Atty. Jose Tolentino, Comelec spokesman, said: "We don't want to use him, but whether he wants to show up and answer the accusations is up to him.

A different kind of man

Garcillano's relatives in Bukidnon town, 90 km from Cagayan City, do not believe he is the man in the alleged tape, asserting it was not in his nature to get involved in questionable activities.

"I don't think it was him. I think it just resembles [the voice] a decent," Garcillano's sister, Wilma Balera, 51, said on the phone.

Galera, a nursing aide at the Bukidnon Provincial Health Unit, said Garcillano last visited his hometown on May 28.

"He just dropped by," she said. But since the tape scandal broke out, Galera said, Garcillano had not called her or three other siblings — Alarico, 46; Danilo, 53, and Nadela, 52 — who all live in Bulungan.

Garcillano, the third of 10 children, studied at the San Leon Elementary School in Bulungan and Sumilao National High School in Bonifacio town. He took up law studies at the University of the East in Manila.

Galera said their late parents "persevered so they could provide us with an education." With reports from Jaime Laude in Cagayan de Oro, Jerry Santos and Yolanda Sotto in Puerto, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Continente: A convict now, fulltime pa soon

CONTINENTE with his six-year-old son Jake

From page A1

ed mostly in writing letters to him.

Imelda would bring the boy, whom they called Jake, along on her visits to her husband.

"It would take about an hour for him to warm up to me," Continente said as he watched the boy romping around the carnival hall.

But he said he understood: "My son has spent his life outside. Sometimes we would not reach other since it was over three months."

8 hours

During the occasional visit, after the child had become comfortable with his father, they would spread the allotted eight hours chatting and frolicking in the prison's cahargo yard.

"He would often ask me if it was really a prisoner because he couldn't see barred cells and barbed wire," Continente said.

The boy would tell classmates, the things he had learned, the places he had been to. In his father's cell, he would scribble his name or draw.

He has mentioned the date, June 28. According to Continente, the boy would point at the date on the calendar in his cell and tell him it was the day he would come home.

They celebrated Father's Day in advance on May because Continente was not sure if his son could visit him again today.

The boy gave him a Father's Day card.

Life sentence

Continente was initially sentenced to a prison term for murder of Thom. For which he was given a life sentence on Feb. 27, 1995.

But upon review, the Supreme Court ruled in August 2000 that he was only an accomplice and lowered his sentence to 14 years.

He was recommended for release three times under the Bureau of Corrections' recidivism program: in January 1993, by the Presidential Review Committee; in June 2003, by the Department of Justice, and in 2004, by the Presidential Committee for the Grant of Bail, Release on Pardon and Parole.

Ex-Commissioner Antonio Carpio, all legally because of presence from the 10 governments.

Anxiety

Continente is both excited about his upcoming freedom and plagued by anxiety.

He said there were nights when he agonized over what the future held for him outside.

"I am nervous because one anxiety is in control. And I am afraid of what they could do to me. I have no enemies. But there are some criminals," he said, referring to the 10 governments.

But Imelda said there were no more legal grounds for his continued detention.

"His release is based on the decision of the Supreme Court," she told the Inquirer.

Mr. admitted, however, that she was a bit wary and would only be happy when she sees her husband walk out of the NPD with his release papers.

Commissioner also said that whether the US government acknowledged his release or not, his mission would end on June 28.

Rumpacan called on the Arroyo administration to "exert more pressure right to freedom.

"While the US government may as usual, try to pressure [our] government not to release [him], the challenge is there for the Arroyo administration to follow its own laws and side with its own citizen over it is [because a foreign power]," said Rumpacan secretary general Edicio Dela Torre.

Thanks

Despite the former Commissioner said he had suffered, he thanked the government for his humanitarian act for the NDF.

"I thank them because it was here that I gained a deeper understanding of politics and a realization of our country's real situation," he said. "But what I don't thank them for is that they treated me like a criminal."

He said that every time new detainees came in, they would relate to him how they were tortured.

This would always remind him of his own suffering, and of his 17-year old brother who died after hoping from a bus to break free from unidentified men, he said.

"But I think my wounds will heal when I am truly free," Continente said.

He said he would dedicate his time outside to fighting for his fellow political prisoners' release.

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Why Cory paid Susan a visit

From page A1

wiretapped conversations with then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano concerning the results of the May 2004 elections.

Cory's impressions

"Cory even told her [Susan] that she sees serena in every inter," Rivera said.

Mr Arroyo has refused to comment or reflect it was the voice that was recorded on the tape, or somebody else's. She has maintained that she won the election by a margin of 1.1 million votes over Poe. See column 4 on A4

Aquino, according to Espino, "is very sensitive" about issues of democracy and the Constitution.

"You have the tape, which is very convincing, on one end, and the opposition, which does not generate electricity, on the other end," he said. "It's an explosive situation that could involve military adventurism. Cory does not like that," Espino said.

Time to talk

"She says that the country would need a responsible leadership that could give direction. So this early dates [colleagues may want to transfer there is a need to talk]," he added.

Aquino, who has been described as a "radical moral force" and a symbol of a nonviolent movement for democracy, supported Mr Arroyo's claim to the presidency when then President Joseph Estrada was ousted in a popular revolt in 2001.

Ms Aquino was named "Woman of the Year" by Time magazine in 1986 and was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Peace Prize in 1987, among other distinctions.

She did not endorse any of the presidential candidates in the 2004 elections, but invited all candidates, including Ms Arroyo, Poe and three others, to a Mass for peaceful elections just before the May 10 polls.

Above suspicion

Claudio also dispelled rumors that Malacañang had been keeping a close eye on Vice President Noli de Castro who, as next in the line of succession, would benefit the most from the President's ouster.

"I don't think the Vice President is casting a major eye on the presidency; he's not the type. His support for and loyalty to the President is something that nobody questions," Claudio said. With a report from Jeff C. Culbreath in Cebu

Mr. and Ms. magazine makes a bold comeback

From page A1

dent of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, is managing what is actually her original baby.

The revitalized Mr. and Ms.—now out in newsstands and popular magazine depots—will be launched tomorrow, 6 p.m., at the Sanctuario de San Antonio parish center in Forbes Park, Makati.

Rizal Bongo Manotoc and "I Speak" host Bianca Gonzalez to pose next on on the cover of the first issue, which carries stories on gaming (chariots), self-hypnosis, breath and spirits, pop idol and superstition.

Sen. Loisa Madrigal and her French husband, Eric Ballade, talk about life and spirituality, and advocating pillar Emily Abaya consults her conversations with her late husband, Cuboy.

Also in the 130-page magazine: Observations of Mr. and Ms. celebrities, antipathy on Pepsi Idol Paul U and Jennifer Yu, and the mysteries of "Star Wars."

Iraq more dangerous now, says envoy

By Nikko Dizon

THE COUNTRY'S top diplomat in Iraq cautioned the government's deployment ban to the war-torn country, saying it had become more dangerous there.

"Lahong-lahong talaga [It's become really dangerous]. It is now deadly now than, say, three months ago," Chargé d' Affaires Eric Tolentino told Inquirer.

Tolentino is back in Iraq after a brief stopover in Manila to attend to his family and Friday.

Tolentino said he had to limit his movements because of the "high risks" that involving kidnappings.

The diplomat said he now communicates with the Filipino community there once a week.

The spate of violent incidents that has rocked Iraq the past weeks has led to the rising death toll among Iraqi and US troops.

Voter registration

Despite the danger and the government's travel ban, however, Tolentino said Filipinos continued to arrive in Iraq to work. They ship here the country through Kuwait, Turkey, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and also Dubai.

Beginning October, more than 6,000 Filipinos are expected to converge in the Philippine Embassy in Baghdad to register for the overseas absentee voting, said Tolentino, who is in Manila for the recently concluded meeting on the voters' registration.

Tolentino's estimate of 6,000 registrants is 2,000 higher than the official government figures of the number of Filipino workers in Iraq.

Tolentino said his estimate was based on information given by Filipino coordinators among the OFWs – most of whom work in United States military camps in Iraq. He said about 15 percent of the 6,000 were women.

Australia to help RP assess security

SYDNEY – Australia will help the Philippines assess its maritime surveillance and response capabilities as a key to improve security in the region, Defense Minister Robert Hill said Saturday.

The initiative emerged from a two-day senior-level meeting in Manila last week to examine how Australia could work more closely with the Philippines on strategic maritime security issues, Hill said.

There will also be a separate assessment of the Philippines' air-based surveillance and response capacities, he said.

"The complex challenges in modern maritime security require close working relationships between governments in our region.

"This underscores the highlighted ways Australia and the Philippines can cooperate to enhance maritime security and is an important step to further developing our defense relationship with the Philippines," Hill said.

The seminar followed talks between Hill and Philippine Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz at the South Asia Security Conference earlier this month. AFP

Meco boosts assistance to Taiwan-bound OFWs

THE MANILA Economic and Cultural Office (Meco) is expanding its assistance to overseas Filipino workers bound for Taiwan and will work more closely with the Overseas Workers and Welfare Administration (Owwa), to ensure that the OFWs are completely briefed on work conditions, labor policies and support services.

Meco and Owwa recently signed a memorandum of agreement aimed at providing timely and accurate information on conditions in Taiwan and developing an efficient feedback system, including quicker response to crisis situations.

Meco will actively participate in pre-departure and post-departure orientation sessions managed by Owwa. The two also plan to conduct post-departure orientation seminars. They will also set up a committee to develop joint projects to lend support to workers.

The accord was signed by Owwa administrator Marcelo Rosqui and Meco chief Antonio Basilio.

"It is conceivable Meco would start playing a more important role in OFW affairs as more and more Filipino workers are leaning for Taiwan. We are hopeful this MOA will mark the start of an active partnership with Owwa," Basilio said.

"There have been many changes in the Taiwanese government's labor policies and there is the need to keep abreast of those changes," he added.

The Daily Gospel

Sunday, June 19, 2005
12th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Father's Day

1st Reading: Jeremiah 20: 10-13

The Lord is at my side
Jeremiah said, "I hear many people whispering,
"Terror is all around!
denounce him! We, denounce him!"
All my friends watch me to see if I will slip.
Perhaps he can be deceived," they say.
Then we can get the better of him
and have our revenge."
But Yahweh, as mighty warrior, is with me:
My persecutors will stumble and not prevail.
Since failure will be their shame,
and their disgrace will never be forgotten.
Yahweh, God of hosts, you test the just
and probe the heart and mind,
let me see your revenge on them,
for to you I have entrusted my cause.
Sing to Yahweh! Praise Yahweh indeed!
he has rescued the poor from the snarers
of the wicked!"

2nd Reading: Romans 5: 12-15

Here is the grace of Christ

Brothers and sisters, sin entered the world through one man and through sin, death, and later on death spread to all humankind, because all sinned. As long as there was no law, they could not speak of disobedience, but sin was already in the world. This is why from Adam to Moses death reigned among them, although their sin was not disobedience as in Adam's case—this man was the risen Adam, but has told the others who was to come.

Such has been the fall, but God's gift goes far beyond. Misfortune the increase of the fault of one man, but how much more does the grace of God spread when the gift he granted reaches the multitudes, from this unique man Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 10: 26-33

Do not be afraid

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows, "Do not be afraid. There is nothing covered that will not be uncovered, and nothing hidden that will not be known. What I am telling you in the dark, you must speak in the light. What you hear in private, proclaim from the housetops.

"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body, but have no power to kill the soul. Rather be afraid of him who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's consent. As for you, every hair of your head has been counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth much more than many sparrows.

"Whoever acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my Father in heaven. Whoever rejects me before others I will reject before my Father in heaven."

Commentary

There will be hard times, but there will be justice and all will be uncovered. We have been taught by Light and we must stand when we have heard in the dark and from the house tops no matter what is happening in the world. We must stand and resist with words of truth and not be afraid of what those with power in the world can do to us—and they can do some terrible things. Ultimately, it is how we live, to our hopes and dreams, our sacrifices, our daily lives and jobs, our person. God remembers us and holds us in his mind and heart and we are precious to our God, especially when we are suffering in one way because we are bound to God. He must live with the courage of the Spirit and the gifts of our baptism and confirmation, with grace to endure and stand up with Jesus truthfully, without harm and for those who are hurt. This is our resurrection life that began in baptism and we practice this all our lives, in good times and hard times, alone if needed, and with our communities.

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HELLO GARCI: Members of Bilibagan Youth play the controversial tape at Heya Q court in opera defiance of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez's threat to file charges against those who reproduce and play it. (PHOTOGRAPH BY)

MILITANTS' LAMENT

'Even the weather is pro-GMA'

MANILA, Philippines—Leaders of militant groups here said certain factors were making President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo "much harder to answer" than her predecessor, President Joseph "Erap" Estrada.

They said these factors included the declared support of the US government for Mr. Arroyo's presidency and the media's "soft" attitude toward the controversies now surrounding her.

"We notice that Gloria Arroyo is much harder to oust than Erap," said Jun Rumola, chair of the local chapter of the party-list group Bayan.

Renato Reyes, secretary general of Bayan, said media exposés on Erap's corruptness and sex exploits.

Judy Miss Israel of Anak Bayan said: "Many of the media organizations are with Erap. Gloria. They don't have the same tool in exposing the anomalies of the present administration, compared to Erap's time."

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said: "The weather is pro-GMA."

Ocampo also noted that the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, Makati Business Club, and the military and police were supportive of the President.

Even nature has been kind to Ms Arroyo, Ramos said.

When rain-related floods inundated some "difficult" low-lying areas in the Luzon provinces and Compostela Valley on Friday evening, he remarked: "I think the weather tonight is pro-Gloria."

PRO-ARROYO: Members of Kilos Kapayapaan from different religious groups join hands in an ecumenical prayer for peace, unity and democracy at the Welcome Rotonda, which is being used as a peace camp by supporters of President Macapagal-Arroyo. (PHOTOGRAPH BY)

Gringo's boys

Elsewhere, the Philippine Constitutes Brotherhood Inc. (PCBI), which is accused of involvement in the Oakwood mutiny of 2003, said it would not join rallies for the ouster of Ms Arroyo.

In a message sent to the media, Benedict Bautista, spokesperson of the Guardians Brotherhood Inc. (G

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Gozo

EU in deep crisis as budget talks collapse

BRUSSELS—The European Union ex-
perienced [rare] "deep crisis" Saturday as
budget talks failed and a two-day
summit collapsed into finger-point-
ing, compounding turmoil over an EU
constitution.

"People will tell you now that Europe is not in
a crisis," Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-
Claude Juncker, who holds the EU presidency,
said after a two-day summit ended in acrimony.

"It is in a deep crisis." Fundamental differences
between Britain, which clung to its long-cher-
ished budget rebate, and most of its 24 EU part-
ners proved impossible to bridge in a desperate,
last-minute round of EU diplomacy.

Determination broke out as hopes for a deal
on the 2007-2013 budget, worth about 100 bil-
lion euros a year, evaporated.

"I believe a deal would have been possible.
The last-ditch drive wasn't one in solely due to the
inflexible stance of the British and the Dutch,"
German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder told re-
porters. The Dutch had demanded a cut in their
annual budget payments.

"In reality we were close to an agreement,"
added French President Jacques Chirac, saying
he "deplored" Britain's stance.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair denied being
isolated by his partners at the summit table.

"We were not alone at the table," he said.

"I hope we can move forward from here," Blair
told reporters, as he reiterated his call for a cost-
and-benefit review of the way the European
Union spends its money.

In subsequent vain attempts, 10 EU governments
since had called for new efforts to strike an ac-
cord, offering to dig deeper into their pockets if it
would help. The call went unheeded.

Juncker trembling with emotion, said close of
his much-less subdued.

"When I heard one after the other, all the new
member countries, each poorer than the other,
say--but in the interest of reaching an agreement
they would be ready to renounce some of their le-
gitimate demands, I was ashamed." The budget
row also unmasked a deep gulf between coun-
tries like Britain, which retain a free, market-ori-
ented alliance, and others who want a deeper al-
liance with social benefits for citizens.

"During this budgetary debate there were two
conceptions of Europe that clashed and will al-
ways clash," Juncker said.

"There are those who, in fact without saying it,
want the big market and nothing but the big mar-
ket, a high level free trade zone, and those that
want a politically integrated Europe," he said.

"I have felt for a long time this debate would
blow up one day." EU leaders had hoped to show
unity over the budget, regaining some popular
respect after French and Dutch voters' humiliat-
ing rejection of their first-ever EU constitution.

The twin ballot blow—by voters in France on
May 29 and the Netherlands on June 1—threw
the bloc into unparalleled soul-searching over its
future, from how it communicates with ordinary
Europeans to enlargement plans and even the fu-
ture of its single currency, the euro.

EU leaders were forced to push the deadline
for ratifying the constitution indefinitely beyond
November 2006, setting off a wave of donations
as several member states postponed their plans
to adopt it.

But the agency only intensified as the European
leaders thrashed over long-term financing.

A resolution was blocked, notably by Britain's
refusal to bow to demands by the other 24 EU
members that it at least freeze the rebate, worth
5.5 billion euros last year. AFP

200-M Chinese expected to be obese in 10 years

BEIJING—At least 200 million people in Chi-
na will suffer from obesity within 10 years if
current trends spurred by unhealthy lifestyles
continue, state press said Saturday.

China currently has 90 million obese citizens
whose weight is more than 20 percent in excess
of their accepted level, said the Information
Times, citing medical experts.

Among these, trends among youths were most
disturbing, it added.

Ten percent of Chinese children were obese
with the number increasing by eight percent an-
nually, Chen Changqing, a leading doctor at the
hospital attached to Dongguan University in
southern Guangdong province, told the newspa-
per.

High fat fast-food diets and casual diet drink
snacking were to blame, it said, adding Chinese
had happily adopted more sedentary lifestyles
centered around the television, computer and re-
mote-life. AFP

Crude oil prices hit record highs in NY, London

NEW YORK—Crude oil futures soared to all-time records Friday as worries over Nigeria combined with heightened concern over fuel supplies later this year.

The July contract on the New York Mercantile Exchange surged as high as $58.28 a barrel, eclipsing the April 4 record of $58.28 a barrel, before settling at $58.47, the highest close on record and a jump of $1.09.

In London, the Brent crude contract hit an all-time high of $57.91 before closing at $57.75, a gain of $1.34.

With supply fears high and buying momentum strong, the market rose sharply after news of the closing of the 320 refinery in Nigeria, a major oil supplier, amid security concerns.

"Geopolitical concerns are propelling the latest spark with the announcement that the 65-refinery in Nigeria has been closed on unspecified security concerns," said John Kilduff, vice president of energy risk management at Fimat, in a note to clients.

"Nigeria's naturally light, sweet crude oil is prized by refiners for the ease by which it can be transformed into motor fuels, especially gasoline," Nigeria, a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and a major oil supplier to the US, is the largest oil producer in Africa and the 11th largest in the world, according to the Energy Department.

"There has been considerable unrest over the past several months," Kilduff said. "As particularly the residents of the oil-rich south on part of the country reacts rebelling the government." He also noted that Exxon Mobil Corp. supplier's minor problem with a fire at one of its two lines on its Baytown, Texas refinery on Thursday. The cracker is a key part of the process of refining crude into gasoline.

"While it doesn't appear that any processing was affected, it's just the sort of news that hardens the worst rally," Kilduff said.

Oil prices are being "driven higher by strong distillate demand," analysts at the Gerdes brokerage firm said. Distillates are used for heating oil, which is now being stockpiled for the northern hemisphere's winter.

Investor Genevieve analyst Deborah White said the market was worried about the fourth quarter when demand for crude oil would be about 2.2 million barrels per day (bpd) higher than during the same period in 2004.

"Is there enough refining capacity in the world, is there enough light, sweet crude in the world to make the increased distillates than the market needs?" she said, echoing traders' concerns.

Analysts were expecting an increase of 4.8 million bpd between now and the fourth quarter—a figure that has fueled speculation that prices could reach $60 per barrel.

"Crude up 50-55 per really used to have a refinery problem in a time in distillate mode," White said.

Analysts and officials have pointed out that there has been no significant investment in new refineries for about 30 years despite rising demand for finished petroleum products, including distillates and petrol. AFP

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HOMAGE TO A NAVIGATOR
The Discoveries monument appears as sunset in Lisbon June 13. The riverside monument was built in 1960 to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the death of Prince Henry the Navigator, promoter of the Discoveries. AFP

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Next giant tsunami seen just a matter of time

CANBERRA—Scientists are convinced another giant tsunami will one day sweep across the Indian Ocean—what they are not sure about is when.

Almost six months after the deadly Dec. 26 tsunami, triggered by a magnitude 9.15 earthquake, scientists are keeping a close eye on aftershocks and the increased earthquake activity around Indonesia as they try to work out when the next big one will hit.

"It could happen any time. It could take another 20 to 50 years, or another 200 years," Phil Cummins, senior earthquake analyst at the Australian government's seismic monitoring organization Geoscience Australia, said.

The area is part of the world's most active earthquake zone that runs along the Java-Sunda trench to the west and south of Indonesia and then curves to run across the top of New Guinea island, accounting for almost one third of the world's earthquakes.

Cummins said the activity was caused by the movements of tectonic plates that make up the earth's surface. The Indo-Australian plate is pushing north and under the Eurasian plate by about five or six cm a year.

That annual movement might not be much. But when pressure builds up over one or two centuries, the result could be a powerful earthquake that results in the earth suddenly moving as much as 15 meters or more.

That's what happened off the west coast of Indonesia's Sumatra island on Dec. 26 but now when an estimated 1,200 km of fault line slipped about 20 meters.

The huge tremors caused the biggest earthquake in 40 years, lifting the sea floor and causing a tsunami that swept across the Indian Ocean, killing 13 nations and leaving about 230,000 people dead or missing.

Indonesia was the worst affected, with 165,000 people dead or missing in Aceh province on the northern tip of Sumatra.

A second earthquake with a magnitude of 8.7 struck the island of Nias off Sumatra on March 28, leaving more than 900 dead, while a 6.9 magnitude earthquake southeast of Nias rocked the area on May 14.

Professor Ray Cas from Melbourne's Monash University, said the increased number of smaller earthquakes in the region made it less likely another major quake was on the way.

"The more small scale earthquakes that occur in that region, the better, but that doesn't mean that somewhere else along that fault zone, one won't get a similar build up of pressure," Cas told Reuters.

"It's in zones where there are fewer active faults, and where there has been little significant earthquake activity for some time, that there is a need to be concerned."

However, Professor John McCloskey of the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland, who predicted the Nias earthquake, said the region was vulnerable to another major earthquake and tsunami further south, near Siberut island, also off Sumatra but south of Nias. Reuters

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Bobby Pacquiao kayoes foe, clinches WBC title

V-LEAGUE VOLLEYBALL
Lorraine Zapata (left) and Kara Co Ya Kang of UST block an FEU spiker in a set play in the Shakey's V-League volleyball tournament (story on Page A 29).

MANNY Pacquiao finally moved out of the shadow of his more illustrious brother, winning the WBC Continental Americas super bantamweight crown by knocking out Carlos Navarro yesterday at the Table Mountain Casino in Friant, California.

The younger brother of Ring Magazine featherweight champion Bong Pacquiao put the reigning champion away after the second of two knockdowns that sent Navarro down to his knees in the seventh round.

Pacquiao, the reigning SF super featherweight champ, stunned slowly but stepped up his assault after a shot in the body in the sixth sent Navarro down.

The southpaw Navarro threw a lunchout with one Angelito Sanchez, who had fought Manny Pacquiao to a draw in 2003.

Bobby Pacquiao, who was fighting in the US for the second time, scattered his wits in having waited superbly at the listed 124 pins in Cebu City.

Prior to his showdown with Navarro, Pacquiao had scattered against top ALA guns fighters like WBF champ Eladio Caballero, IBF junior welter champ Ener Abaqui, OPBF titlist Randy Suico, IBF welter champ Dondon Andian, and WBO Asia Pacific bantam king Rex Tapudan.

The win improved Pacquiao's record to 20-11-3, 11 KOs, while Navarro fell to 26-4-1, 21 KOs. Referee L. Lagumbay, semi-referee

SPORTSWATCH

Lorena, Dangcod capture WBC titles

FILIPINOS Jesly Lorena Jr. and Jonas Dangcod acquired the vacant world titles in the World Boxing Council (WBC). The Cebuano Lorena scored a 3rd round knockout over Gandhi Ebib to claim the then-vacant WBC junior lightweight title in the "welcome-home" Fiesta show on Antipolo" card on Saturday. "Gabot" Ebido is another Cebuano Warrior who fought only 2 days after Vonnie Gamia to Antipolo City. Dangcod, a knockout from Mandaluyong, earned a unanimous decision victory over Roberto "Master Boomerang" in their 12-round bout. The judges scored 114-113, 115-111 and 116-110 all in favor of Dangcod, who improved to 24-11-13 with 13 KOs.

3 RP boxers join Asian junior tilt

A SIX-MAN Philippine Boxing team left for Pakistan yesterday to fulfill a commitment to participate in the Asian Junior Boxing Championships. With coach Efren Pontejos at the helm, light flyweight Jay-R Casaso and lightweight Anthony Rabillas will drop it out against their best boxers from the region aged 19 years and below on June 20 to 26.

"We are committed to participate in this event, the Philippines in general and the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines in particular," said ABAP president Monte Lozada.

Pacquiao, Salido to headline Asian tilt

DANSALAN'S Pacquiao features this afternoon two exciting fights in the light flyweight and flyweight divisions. Rowel-born Manny Pacquiao and Ryan Salido trek it up in a four-round slugfest at 108 lbs. Glory Lola daughter with Chonbo Salido locals rounds at 112 lbs. The knockdowns held recently at the Mandaluyong Sports Complex in Mandaluyong City. Pacquiao's fights "Mark Salido" featured outdoors worldwide through ABS-CBN Global's The Filipino Channel Pinoy Central TV. Samsung's Reference supported by Samsung, Telebuy, PCSO and Magnavox is also nationwide at 4 p.m., Sundays on GMA-7's "Sari Power Plus," featuring the elimination round of the Cambata Sports Collegiate Women's Basketball Volleyball Challenge at 5 p.m.

Nokia golf winds up elims at MGC

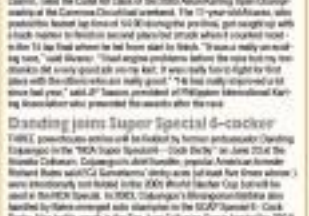
THE NOKIA Mass Mega golf series winds up its two-month long eliminations with the staging of the semi-finals leg tournament tomorrow at the Manila Golf Club-Intramuros course. Nokia Philippines president and chairman Ed Lorenzo is hoping 80 golfers each, Magallanes crowned the way with a 69 after 18 holes of tournament exclusively for villagers to Makati and Mandaluyong but the Metro each month. An event-finale are again expected to beat Magallanes' twelve-stroke to be grand finale along with Archie Rubio, Joseph Arao, Mike Abdul Bay' Escudero, Porfirio Alpas and Theo Sebastian. The top three players after 36 holes will join the Top Ten finalists in the three other assigned tournaments—east, south and north.

Top local netters challenge Nationals

THE PHILIPPINE Tennis Association finalizes its preparation for the country's coming Davis Cup campaign for with Lebanon this week with a Philippinebation of Challenge getting the National squad in Asia' athletes at the Manila Southwood Tennis Center. Ruben Gonzales, Cecil Mamiit, Eric Taino, Antonio Avella, Joseph Alduncin and Rolando Raal Jr. will be joined for the five-day tournay starting tomorrow by Diamel Martino, Aldin Mirasol, Ralph Mark Rante and Michael Adrian Bacos in the quest for the P75,000 top purse. The Philippines is ranked the newest addition on July 13 to 17 to a best-of-five crossover relegation tie.

Streetball Challenge Visayas finals on

ILIN-ILOILO's Iloilo Streetball Challenge's regional eliminations in Iloilo, Bacolod and Cebu staged last in the Visayas finals today at SM Cebu with battle in the traditional championships at Cebu. University of Visayas beats the field with its Team Gonzales and Team Galeno, winners of the seniors and girls divisions, respectively in the Iloilo leg. Bacolod's Negros Occidental College and Team Galeno of Bgy. Zone 15-A barred the Bacolod contingent. In the Cebu clinic, Team Dibo of University of San Carlos adopted Team Gandia of Bgy. Tisa Labangon, 13-4, to underdog girls category and join the other qualifiers from the coast and Iloilo in the regional finals today.



Alvarez takes Asian Karting Open crown

JOHN Alvarez of Team ORC, who is bound for Petersburg Technical Institute and Dalfort, sailed the Gold 60 Class of the 2005 Asian Karting Open Championship at the Carmona Circuit last weekend. The 13-year-old Alvarez, who posted the fastest lap time of 50.80 during the prelims, got caught up with a track marker in the first second place but struck when it crashed road - in the 15-lap final where he led from start to finish. "Because really an exciting race," said Alvarez. "Your engine problems before the race but my machine did a very good job on my ride." It was really fun to fight for first place with the others who are really good." "He has really improved a lot since last year," said JP Sason, president of Philippine International Karting Association who presented the awards after the race.

Dranding joins Super Special 6-cocker

THREE powerhouse entries will be hosted by former ambassador Dranding Estanislao in the "PBA Super Specials — Cock Derby" on June 23 at The Wrestle Coliseum. Estanislao's dent founder, popular American wrestler Richard Bales said Ka Eumenio's derby aces last year five times winner) were internationally contended in the 2005 World Fighting Cup but will be dealt at the PBA Specials. In 2003, Estanislao's Wrestlemania Battle was handled by Bales emerged solo champion in the SCAP Special 6 - Cock Derby. Also battle royale in the San Juan Coliseum Group headed by 2004 Bgy Cock champion Delta Lim, the Team Sagipuan WAP of sabong idol Patrick Antonio, Benjie Lim, Pia Estrellado and Rep. Butch Pichay. Holly Diamond Dennis Antonio and Wrestlemania Group of Con. Bo Yoseng.

Submission of weights for Makati cockfest

SUBMISSION of entries for Makati Sabungan's "Hagpe Gamefarm 4 - Cock Derby" will be held from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. today. More than 70 fights will be staged tomorrow. Sabong aficionados and breeders from Metro Manila, Cavite, Batangas, Laguna, Negros Occidental, Pangasinan, Pampanga, Bicol and Bulacan, PET Nguyle, Surveillance Group and local thru-out city cooperation with Councilors Lito Ortiñola, Rudy Salvador and Wilson Chi of Mandaluyong, Pete Jacinto Sports and Gaming Commission. For information, contact 896 - 2045 or 896 - 4451. Meanwhile, the PLU Group will also host another 6 - cock derby on June 27.

Pasig Square Garden hosts derby

ALL roads lead to the Pasig Square Garden (Sumulong Road, Pasig City) tomorrow when the "PBA Grand Championship 5 - Cock Derby" unfolds with more than 60 fights scheduled. The Metro Cockers Association (MCA) is presenting the event in cooperation with the PSG management headed by Senator Chito Gascon, Mrs. Dorothy Ann B. Arcay, Mong Dimaculangan, Polly Bautista and Edgar Cortazar. Leading the cast after one-on-one encounters Edgar Cortez and Boy Jaen, the National Cockers Association (NCA) Dogfighter of the Year in 2004.

REALITY COMBAT 4 in Aguilar, (left) organizer of the Universal Reality Combat Championship (URCC), shakes hand with Louie Pastor, COO of Solar Entertainment Corp., to seal the deal making Solar the producer of URCC 4 Unleashed Fury slated June 25 at the Cuneco Amphitheater in Paranaque. Call 911-5005.

RP cagebelles leave for Fiba-Asia tilt

THE RP Women's Team left yesterday for Qingdao, China, to compete in the 21st Fiba-Asia Basketball Championship for Women set June 19 to 25.

This was the first trip approved under the helm of new RBF president Jose Lina, who-one the event as a good tune-up for the RP Women's team leaning up for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games this November.

"We're not expecting the team to win in this tournament, but playing against the top tough teams of Asia will be a good learning experience," said Lina, who was recently acknowledged by Fiba Asia as MVP president.

"The trip is part of our commitment to Fiba-Asia, and we have to fulfill that international commitment, added Lina. "We see this as a fine way to revitalizing the programs of the RBF and come up with more competitive national teams."

J-Bal.

The National Women's Team will be playing its first RP against Malaysia, India, Singapore, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Lebanon and Korea.

The Team, rammed by Raymond Celis, is composed of Jennifer Enriquez, Charmaine Infante, Stella Penfree, Kimbie Carreon, Jill Lizardo, Marlin Bautista, Jhala Lozada, April Mae Lualhati, Sienne Adriano, Katrina Slate, Divina Reyes, and Christine Hendrickson.

"We're not expecting much but we'll try our best to make it into the top five," said Coach Celis. "This will be a good warm up to further enhance their skills and prepare them better for the SEA Games.

Competing in Level I of the tournament organized by Fiba-Asia are China, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei and Thailand.

Revtex riders favored in international meet

MUDY-TITLED riders Glenn Aguilar, Bienreth San Jacinto and Nelson Delos Cruz will try to extend Revtex's dominance to Bacolod City which hosts the Camel-Supercross International Championship today, Father's Day.

The Revtex trio is coming off several swashbuckling shows in Ifrosi, Sinsinguan and even during the 1st leg of the Camel-Supercross in Iloilo City.

The Bacolod stop of the event, organized by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety (NAMSSA), will give the Revtex stars the opportunity to fortify their status as the country's top motocross team.

"The world-class Revtex all-but the team says, but got a lot to do about this because of our smooth rides in practically all tournaments, where we showed the stuff that we're made of," said Aguilar, who leads the Pro Open and Pro 125 categories of the NAMSSA-National Motocross Championship.

Honda and Petromax aren't be around in Bacolod City, but Chairon Benjahan, "Barlaseh's bro. I motocross rider, will be present.

Aguilar and Delos Cruz are coming off a masterful 1-2 finish in the Pro 125 division of the Sinsinguan Motocross Challenge, further, the two Revtex topped the 1st Gov. Lory Villarin Invitational Motocross at the Capitol Complex, Gadlac, PEI, Consortium Set, with the Revtex Rocket topping the premier Pro 125 and Delos Cruz ruling the Pro 250.

San Andres and his father-coach Jun-Jun followed suit by winning the Super Open Production and Veterans' divisions, respectively.

Aguilar is also supported by Bridgestone, MD Boots, Beefeat, Goldstar, Phantom Corporation, IMC Helmets, Sea Palace Restaurant, CCCI Pipes and Pro-Drip. San Andres is also backed by Oakley, RTM, Bridgestone, LOC Helmet, Renthal, Alpine Star, UFO, JBS Motorcycle Shop and DOT Pipes.

RGFFP tourney Aug. 25

ROTARY Club of Davao North will host the 19th RGFFP (Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines) membership golf tournament at the Apo Golf and Country Club and Palm Garden GCC courses on Aug. 23-27.

Don Briones of the host club and RC Matina's Wilson Uy Jr. outlined the arrangement in a recent meeting with RGFFP officials Sonny Braga and Albert Uy.

Tournament fee is P2,500 payable on or before Aug. 10. This includes green fee and free practice round for both courses, four cocktail dinner events, give-aways, raffle items and prizes.

The organizers are organizing a special discount and a sponsorship with Philippine Airlines. Hotel discounts will be announced later.

The defending champions are 98 Rapsodistas Manila Central and Rotarian Jory Magadaya of RC Upi Bachelor.

For details, contact RGFFP Secretariat's Pauline Arcilla (0920-9159881) or Leah Cecilio (0920-9159255 at tel. no. 7233867, local 120 or e-mail rgffp@rotary.com or fax 7233666.

Names, banks, account numbers of 40M credit card holders may have been copied

NEW YORK—The names, banks and account numbers of up to 40 million credit card holders may have been accessed by an unauthorized user, MasterCard International said.

The credit card giant said Friday the security breach involves a computer virus that captured customer data for the purpose of fraud and may have affected holders of all brands of credit cards.

It said the breach was traced to Atlanta-based CardSystems Solutions Inc., which processes credit card and other payments for banks and merchants.

The compromised data did not include addresses or Social Security numbers, said MasterCard spokesperson Sharon Connolly. The data that may have been viewed—names, banks and account numbers—could be used to steal funds but not identities.

Connolly said she did not know how a virus like a computer is that that captured customer data got into CardSystems' network, which MasterCard said was within days of an unrelated theft and hack attack. Neither company would elaborate.

The FBI was investigating.

The incident was the latest in a series of security breaches affecting valuable consumer data as major financial institutions and data brokers in an increasingly databased driven world.

The breach appears to be the largest yet involving financial data, said David Szwed, general counsel at the Electronic Privacy Information Center.

"The steady stream of these disclosures drives the pressing need for regulation of the industry both in terms of limitation in the amount of personal information that companies collect and also liability when those kinds of disclosures occur," Szwed said.

A litany of disclosures of breaches affecting high-profile companies including Citigroup Inc., Bank of America Corp. and DSW Shoe Warehouse has prompted federal lawmakers to draw up legislation designed to better protect consumer privacy.

MasterCard, which said about 13.9 million of its own cards were exposed, first announced the breach in a news release Friday afternoon, saying it was notifying its card-issuing banks of the problem.

However, CardSystems said late Wednesday in a statement issued by the PR firm it first learned of a potential breach on May 22. It said it was told by the FBI not to release any information to the public. "The company said it was surprised by MasterCard's decision to go public.

"We were absolutely blindsided by a press release by the association," CardSystems' chief financial officer Michael A. Brody told The Associated Press when reached on his cell phone. He refused to answer any questions and ended all calls to the company's chief executive, John M. Perry, and its senior vice president of marketing, Bill G. Barnes.

Barnes said the information the company gathered initially was "on a need-to-know basis." He said he could not comment beyond a company announcement, which did not give any details about the breach. Jon noted that CardSystems is implementing recommended security measures.

"Understood and fully agree on this awareness of the situation," Barnes said. AP

Suu Kyi in February 25, 1999 photo.

Campaign to free Suu Kyi unlikely to move junta

By Denis D. Gray

BANGKOK, Thailand—Thousands of birthday cards have been sent and a popular soft rebuses a song to draw attention to the plight of Burma's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi as she marks her 60th birthday and 2,332nd day under military detention on Saturday.

Isolated from the outside world and her detained political party, Suu Kyi is confined to a one-dilapidated, two-story family house sealed off around the clock by security forces in the Burma capital of Rangoon (also called Yangon).

The Peru Aung San Suu Kyi campaign signifies that the Nobel Peace Prize laureate—articulate, attractive and unquestionably brave—remains the great hope for those around the world seeking to end more than four decades of harsh military rule in her homeland.

But within Burma, also known as Myanmar, the efforts before Suu Kyi's birthday are unlikely to lead either to her release from house arrest or less draconian rule. The generals have long governed virtually imperious to outside pressure, even economic sanctions from the United States.

"We are trying to use the opportunity of Suu Kyi's 60th birthday to galvanize public opinion and politicians into finally taking some action on Burma. The international response has been quite pathetic since her latest arrest," says Mark Farmaner, spokesman for Burma Campaign, United Kingdom.

Under more than sixteen of eighteen detained Suu Kyi has detained in May 2003 after a pro-government mob savagely attacked her caravan in northern Burma, killing a number of her companions.

The muted response, especially from many nations and the Bangkok-based Association of Southeast Asian Nations, has led to a demoralization of opposition in Burma and greater isolation of Suu Kyi than during her previous periods under house arrest, Burmese argue.

Accordingly, experts draw to the pro-democracy movement in the Rangoon, Suu Kyi's only human contact with the outside world are her two personal doctors whose visits have been curtailed since last year. Two members of her National League for Democracy do the shopping but must deliver thoroughly scrutinized packages at the gate of her cul-de-sac compound, the garden of which resembles a jungle.

Suu Kyi detained the 13 months from the NLD won a resounding victory in mid-December to protest of the military's demand that the outlawed party continue. And the military liaison officer with whom she had contact since her first detention in 1989 was jailed last year in a power struggle and hasn't been replaced.

Suu Kyi is believed to be healthy and has not been pressured to leave the country.

"It's international attention and public profile which has kept Aung San Suu Kyi safe," says Farmaner, whose group is orchestrating the campaign for her release in the United Kingdom.

The global effort is modeled after the 1980 "Mandela at 70" campaign to free Nelson Mandela from imprisonment at then apartheid-era South Africa. Posters were held at several Burma embassies around the world Friday and activists delivered 8,000 birthday cards at Burma's mission in Washington. AP

STILL a crowd-drawer despite recent hostage crisis... Jets rainbows cross over the Angkor Wat in Siem Reap June 17. Dutch tourist Saskia Kiers saw the school siege here on television as she was hoping her photo ticket to visit the famed Angkor Wat ruins, but like most visitors at Cambodia's premier attraction, she came despite a overseas of doubt over her safety. AFP

More men suspected to be involved in school siege

SIEM REAP, Cambodia — Cambodian authorities said Saturday they suspected more men may have been involved in the world's school siege where an armed gang took dozens of children hostage and killed a young boy.

Police suspected that the four men arrested for the attack not immediately be sent to court as authorities continued grilling them over Thursday's incident, which shocked the quiet gateway town to the Angkor Wat temples.

"We have to find out more in case there were other people involved who remain at large and may commit crimes in other people," said Tea Sin, bureau chief of serious crime in Cambodia's northwestern Siem Reap.

"I have asked the prosecutors to delay sending them to court for 72 hours (from first) to find out (Thursday) because I have more things to question them about.

"There are many suspicious points about the case... there are contradictions between their testimony (to police) and the realities of the incident," he said.

Officials say they suspect more people might have been involved because the attackers demanded that an earlier three four guns be given to them during the drama. An earlier also told AFP during the hostage crisis that there were suspicions two man had escaped.

At least four men armed with a single handgun stormed into a classroom at the Siem Reap International School and took about 30 hostages.

Early on during the seven-hour stand-off Guy Alfred, two-year-old Canadian Maxim Michaelk to shoot police who had surrounded the school they were furious about demands for more weapons, cash and a getaway vehicle.

Chea Soldout, the 33-year-old alleged mastermind of the gang, told police that the attackers were going to murder the children of a South Korean businessman who had slapped him while he was working as a driver for the tourist Siem Reap.

On Friday, police said the South Korean had admitted to striking Chea Soldout, but on Saturday Oc Eric said it was possible another South Korean man working for the businessman who had assaulted him.

Police said Chea Soldout, six security guard, 6,000 baht he and his accomplices paid when security forces descended on the school as they fled to find the businessman's children.

While one child died, police refused to give the exact cause, saying they did not want to go into which the attackers handled several others children, aged mostly between six and six, and twelve escape.

But police overpowered the men as they tried to leave the school compound, and the four were badly beaten by a crowd of local onlookers outside the school, said a witness who thought two were killed.

The other three men arrested were Thim Chem, 20, and Vimi Sophesh, 22, who had once worked with Chea Soldout at Preah Vihear province temple as well as Sin Tha, 22, who police identified as a motorcycle worker.

A fifth man, 26-year-old Ol Sovannara, was detained early Friday after being accused by Chea Soldout of hatching a robbery plan months ago. He remains in custody but it was unclear what charges he will face, if any. AFP

RAFSANJANI casting his ballot in Tehran June 17. REUTERS

Iran presidency poll heads for unexpected runoff

TEHRAN — Moderate cleric Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was leading on Saturday in Iran's presidential election but the race was heading for an unprecedented runoff after no candidate secured an outright vote, officials said.

"It has been a completely unpredictable election and one still cannot foresee the final result," Deputy Interior Minister Mahmoud Hekmat told reporters as counting of the votes from Friday's election continued.

The Guardian Council said former president Rafsanjani held a narrow lead with nearly 21 per cent of the 22 million valid votes counted out of an estimated 32 million cast.

He was followed by Tehran's conservative former mayor Mahmoud Ahmadinejad with just over 19 percent and reformist cleric Mehdi Karroubi on just over 17 percent.

Gendarmerie ex-police chief Mohammad Bagir Qalibaf and reformist former higher education minister Mostafa Moin trailed with a little over 14 percent each, the council figures showed.

"There's a high possibility that Rafsanjani and Ahmadinejad will go through to the second round but we should wait and see," said Mohammad Jahromi, a Guardian Council election official.

To avoid a run-off, one of the candidates need to obtain at least 50 percent of ballots cast.

Gholamhossein Ehrami, spokesman for the Guardian Council supervisory body said the second round would be held on Friday, June 24.

It was the first time since the 1979 Islamic revolution that a presidential vote had failed to produce a first round winner.

Whoever wins, unelected Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has the final say on most affairs and sets Western hardliners' key fears of power, the security and the source.

The preliminary results aroused the Moin camp, which had exuded confidence that the reformist contender would go through to a second round against Rafsanjani.

Some blamed voters decided by Karroubi's campaign promise to pay all Iranians over $1 a monthly stipend of about $60.

"I'm very sorry for the unpublic people we have in this country when other people unlikely vote for their $60," said Hamid Sweidi, a 28-year-old Shia supporter.

"This puts me in a very difficult position but I still definitely win in the second round as the country would go into paralysis under Ahmadinejad," he said, indicating that he would switch his vote to Rafsanjani in the run-off.

"He has consistently promised a lot and people say he is the one who can get things out," Rafsanjani is a veteran politician who wants better ties with the West and would be likely to pursue a pragmatic economic programme, liberalising the economy and preserving social freedoms without antagonising the powerful clerical elite.

"I have promised people to continue reforms and I am sure I can deliver my promises," he said after voting.

His campaign portrayed him as the only one with the political savvy and influence to resolve Iran's nuclear standoff with the West and repair ties with Washington.

After a lively campaign featuring Western-style television adverts and noisy street rallies that flew in sexually-mute Islamic moral codes, turnout was about 56 percent of Iran's youthful electorate of 47 million, the Interior Ministry said. Reuters

ISSN 0116-2442 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Vol. XXVI, No. 181

OPINION

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A legitimate issue

YESTERDAY, we noted the "view from the outside" on the political crisis that has overtaken the nation. In particular, we seized upon a recent statement by Ronald Mendiratta of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, to draw the important distinction between politics and governance. "These days," the foundation's Philippine representative said, "the political class in the Philippines is not concerned with governing, but preoccupied [with] other things."

EDITORIAL

In the context of global economic trends, this preoccupation with the politics of scandal is truly unfortunate, even tragic. The political class will always have access to economic opportunity, whether here or abroad; the rest of the country will bear the economic consequences of today's political turmoil.

But none of this is to say that the alleged taped conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and former election commissioner Virgilio Garcillano are a trivial matter, a political ploy that is best ignored.

Let us be clear. The alleged tapes are a legitimate public concern. It is therefore in the national interest that we get to the truth about them. The real issue is not possible violations of the Anti-Wire Tapping Law, or possible acts of destabilization; it is possible election fraud.

But it is a legitimate concern bedeviled by the opposition's own rush to judgment, its eagerness to accelerate the process by pushing its own conclusions.

Two glaring examples. Opposition leader and presidential rival Sen. Panfilo Lacson said he submitted a copy of the alleged wiretaps, together with voice samples of the President and Garcillano, to an Australian company for voice analysis. Apparently, he paid over P500,000 for the analysis purely out of the goodness of his heart.

Failed commercial candidate Francisco Tatad did the same thing, sending copies and samples to a US company, also apparently because the Arroyo administration stifle had money to spare but no axe to grind.

These transparent attempts to score easy political points only serve to muddle the issue, because they add personal and political motives to the mix. Like the discredited or obscure opposition figures who surrounded Samuel Dog during his first news conference, these purported voice analyses conjured by Lacson and Tatad raise more questions than answers. (Verification through the auspices of the Department of Justice or the National Bureau of Investigation would be similarly suspect.)

If the alleged principals in the conversations (the President, Garcillano, former senator Robert Barbers, to name only those) deny they are involved or continue to maintain a studied silence, then the alleged wiretaps must be authenticated by an independent group—with the authentication also paid for by a neutral third party.

This may take time, because it would be difficult to get, say, a multi-party grouping of congressmen or a committee of retired Supreme Court justices, to come together and have the tapes checked. But it will be time well worth the wait, because we believe the results would be credible to the great majority.

Alternatively, the President can simply knuckle down. In fact, we urge her to do so. The presidency is often called the lonely pulpit because of the essentially moral nature of the office. Moral imperatives constrain her (or liberate her, depending on one's point of view) to address the truth of the tapes.

But we also realize that, to the siege mentality that has now enveloped Malacañang, moral niceties have necessarily taken a back seat to legal strategies and political considerations.

At this time, the administration's overall plan seems clear: keep silent on the tapes, and paint those who bring up the issue as "destructors," "destabilizers," enemies of reform. Administration officials would be able to keep this up for long; it is a wonder that they even thought this strategy would work in the very near term.

The tapes are a legitimate public concern; if the President's role in them is not sufficiently addressed, this administration would soon find itself increasingly unable to govern. It would be terminally preoccupied with other things, like politics.

Rizal and censorship

SEPARATE OPINION

Benjamin A. Cruz

I DID not wear shoes Independence Day last Sunday because I thought I should do it today in this commemoration the 144th anniversary of Jose Rizal. For this double purpose, let me quote some excerpts from a speech I delivered two years ago before the PEN.

Her being an authority on Rizal, I will speak about him only tangentially. I will talk about one particular passion he cherished as the hallmark of his life that also became the consuming passion of his death. This passion was freedom of expression.

It is with this freedom that he wrote the first and the fifth, his predictions about the Philippines a century hence, his letter to the women of Malolos, his youthful poems dedicated to the Motherland, and his Heroes Address in his farewell message to the nation he loved with the order of a contemporary.

Rizal was a man of peace and had imaginings about an armed revolution against Spain. He believed it could not succeed because the Filipinos had no guns. He felt assured that the fight against the Spanish administration should be waged not with bullets and bayonets but with the incisive pen. In this less violent but cerebral struggle, he would be the commander-in-chief.

And his troops would be no less valiant than the Europeans or his beloved Castilian heroes. He would arm them with the weapons of reason. His soldiers marched across the pages of his books like a mighty army. They were Graciosa Ibarra and the tragic Maria Clara, Sisa fostering for her two wan and Pedro Penduko, the youth of the land, the courageous Elias and the wise Filosofo Tasio, Simoun the angry liar indeed avenger, and, yes, Padre Damaso and Padre Salvi, each with his own lust for the slender and his daughters.

But all opposition faced by dictatorial measures to the machinations of the Spanish government to suppress his novels. He was speaking his right against persecution, more commonly known as censorship. Censorship is anathema to liberty. It is the process by which the government presumptuously assumes the role of moral, political, social and artistic guardian of the supposedly society and deprives the individual of his inherent right of choice.

Who is he to censor you? or what is good and what is bad for our edification? We do not need even a priest to tell us these. Each one of us is a rational individual, with his own conscience, his own values, and his own convictions. Each one of us is an hero. The eternal laity he had equal, and more likely our inferior, not he is certainly not superior so as often is easier to see personal likes and dislikes and one even virtues of the purpose of life.

The opportunists may shrink at the strong stand of the author. He lives in the no-man's-land of plain great virtues with a variety of unspeakables. The unspeakable fact is that they are experts in out-pretend, connive and win contest success times by simply ignoring them as if they were invisible rays of pure dark. This is an impossible world. We are not even in the Neanderthal age. Although we have already developed a withdrawal to consult a doctor not the Great cancer he demonized if the woman is not modest to disrobe.

In Noli Me Tangere, Rizal wrote of the evil who in age past were exposed on the steps of the temple to the gods could heal them. By substance we make it is unlikely that the malades of our country should be similarly concerned as they could be censored. The censors of his time and he would not do what and censored him at the Lunetas for censoring that he could well should, as he boldly did. "No moral is less permitted, but not his ideas that treat more of him the deepest weapon of the word against the moral.

The implacable election could have survived with probably lived in a type old age if he had succumbed to the blandishments of the Spanish government and agreed to suppress his works. Perhaps they would have even given him a lifetime pension. He could have then devoted his attention to the traits in her hours of his greatest love passion and have his undertaken reputation for the freedom of his country.

Agreeing to the censorship would have been his license to live longer; objecting made him choose to die young, but only in a physical sense. These two selves are doubt about his choice.

The Spanish rulers considered Rizal a menace because he was against the existing order and demanded its revamp. He did not touch religious dictation and had genuine admiration people, but he would never be brought down the revelations that found as from Spain as the seat of delusions of lover of Filipinos who were walking and prepared to die for their country. Rizal, brandishing not a saber but the sword of liberty like Moses gave hearing the Ten Commandments, was their leader.

It is a badge of honor on her friend, at 35, had his life special before from the 1 fought censorship, but he chose instead to face the firing squad. For this courage that ultimately freed his country, he deserves our continuing gratitude and veneration as the perfect patriot of the Philippines.

Be not afraid

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

QUESTION: Is the content (verse points) a fruit or a vegetable?

Answer: It is a fruit because when you eat it, you get as much as in your stomach, and when you finish you eat, the sound "Fruuuit" comes out.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mt. 10, 26-33) Jesus tells His disciples not to be afraid for "nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, no secret that will not be known." Note that every lie, every words of Jesus ring out loud and clear to the Filipino people the truth shall prevail in the end. On the other hand, let Jesus' words be a warning to those who hide, manipulate, or block truth for their own selfish interests. Jesus tells us to unite ourselves with holiness will be made known.

* * *

Sometimes one can find truth is tough. It can be hacked, slammed, bullied or beaten black and blue, but it cannot be broken. It will stay it will outlive. A lie, on the other hand, it is just a matter of time before it is found out. Truth is remarkable; and it has to be shown on guard. Consequently, let us be who build the truth is at peace. He or she may have to suffer for it, be, chose truth hurts, but he or she is free. But he or she who lies has endless woes, because he or she has to cover up and is imprisoned by the very lie he or she has invented.

* * *

In a Hans with the Eleven visionary Julia Kim last week, she told me that the sun is evil. She saw a smoke that was going to attack her. But she was able to crush it with her foot. Then came another smoke, which she ran into with a crash. When I asked her what the vision means, she said that truth and goodness will triumph in the end. Goodness and truthfulness will be victorious. What a beautiful message of hope. Let us pray that truth and goodness will reign in our land.

* * *

It is easy to stand for the truth, and to stand by the truthful, but the question is there—"you are worth more than many sparrows," God is on the side of the truth and of the truthful. Unfortunately, the truthful side is not a comfortable side because it is often labeled with persecution, harassment, intimidation and even death. But the human fear to God stand for the truth? Did I stand by the truthful? Obviously, did I stand for Jesus who is the way the truth and the life?

* * *

"Hear the light, and your shadows is behind you. Turn your back to the light, and your shadows will always be in front of you." Living has its own temporary rewards, but it also has its own permanent agony and agony.

* * *

Let it play! Maybe you have one with you right now. Take a moment to look for a minutes, seconds, pieces and you will see the following buttons: PAUSE, STOP, EJECT, FORWARD, REWIND, PLAY, RECORD. What does one see from these three? The reason why we don't live beautiful lives is that we keep on pressing the REWIND and the FORWARD buttons. Let it play! And don't forget the PAUSE button—let us pray! The STOP, EJECT buttons are there reserved for God. Let us not interfere with His truth and with His plan. And remember everything we have said and done is on RECORD, and He holds the master tapes in His hands.

* * *

In these very uncertain times, anything can happen. Anyone of us who stands for the truth can be persecuted by those who are desperately trying to preserve their lies. We take courage in Jesus' words: "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul." So be it. Let it pass. This will be done, Lord. Our only consolation is that we stood for the truth, we stood by the truthful, and we did not deny Jesus Himself who is the way, the truth and the life!

* * *

At this point in time, all of us, especially the Church and its leaders must ask: Did I error as I spoke serious to elevate the truth, or did I serve as a cover-up to some of it? Did I bring out the truth, or did I muffle it in my silence?

* * *

For those who lie, let there who perpetrate and institutionalize lies, for those who allow themselves to be used by liars, we beg you to bend your knees before God and admit. His spirit of truth to penetrate and enlighten you. Nothing is more nothing less. Only God's spirit can save you and free you from your shadows and from your prisons.

* * *

We must stop the no-man's of lies, untruthfulness and corruption that now pervade our land. We must reject its totalitarianism and tyranny, otherwise the house that we have built will crumble on our heads. We must be vigilant, lest we fall to triumph. "We must be doubly vigilant in protecting our leaders and institutions that claim to preserve us, or to interrogate for us, or to deliver justice to us, for they determine our life and option to."

The night is still. Let us ask Blessed Gilbert to hold and embrace us. Bind our land! Banish the demons from our land. Lord!

* * *

Think about it: Those who give to in line, remain white lies, cause for some color blind.

* * *

A moment with the Lord.

Lord, help me not to be afraid to stand for truth, to stand for the truthful, and to stand by you, the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen.

Incorporation rites

Rivelle

Raimundo J. Isaredam

YESTERDAY, the Philippine Military Academy corps did not end its solemn traditions—only commence of "incorporation." From the time they were accepted as cadets last April 1, the members of Class 2009 marched as a New Cadet Battalion (NCB) segregated from the main body of the Corps. Their only contact with upper classmen were their designated second class cadets third year students) who served as the officers of the battalion. All others, third class and even first class cadets were off limits to the brotherhood.

Yesterday, the Class of 2009, 218 strong and composed of 193 men and 25 women, were formally integrated into the Corps. They were also officiated to different companies which for the next four years will serve as their permanent companions. They will now be under the supervision **each other in various fields of endeavor**—such as athletics, debates and military drills—not as individuals, not as members of a particular class, but as members of a company with its own colors and customs.

More than 50 years ago, my own Class of 1956 was incorporated into the Corps after two months of "Beast Barracks," a grueling period of training and indoctrination in military life. Our class was then the maximum-sized academy life. We were ordinary men, about 500 members, and the Lady-ies numbered roughly 200 or more cadets, all told.

Today, the Corps has a total strength of 1,181 cadets, including 110 females. From time to time, since during our time, the Corps has expanded to eight companies forming four battalions, and the parade ground in Fort Del Pilar now can just barely accommodate the entire battalion.

On the occasion of the PMA's approximate, Lt. Gen. Cristolito Sadsong, I spoke to the cadets gathered in the formation on Borromeo Field, the parade ground of the Academy named after the late Col. Francisco Borromeo who served as the first Commandant of Cadets. Also present as guests of honor were the parents of the cadets overlooking the parade area is named after Brig. Gen. Vicente Sipalay, a West Pointer who was the first post-war superintendent and who implemented the months of the Academy from Camp Henry T. Allen in the heart of Baguio City to Loakan, some 10 kilometers away.

In the light of the recent scandals involving graduates of the Academy, I reminded the cadets of the Honor Code which actually lays down the minimum standard of ethical behavior expected of cadets. I am grateful for the interest and concern of **individuals like J. Antonio** ("Tito") **Arroyo**, a member of the Ateneo High School Class of 1955 but, complimentary history buff, wrote me an article on the "Spirit of the Honor Code," the work of a committee commissioned by the United States Military Academy to review its Honor Code and System. The Special Committee, chaired by Dr. Lindsey Brooks, was made up of distinguished graduates who had risen to the uniformed service public and private sectors.

Some excerpts from the Committee's report on the Spirit of the Honor Code read as follows: "It is the Spirit of the Code that gives rise to the specific words of the Honor Code itself."

- The Spirit of the Code embraces cardinal virtues in all its aspects. The Honor Code prohibits lying.
- The Spirit of the Code calls for complete fairness in student relationships. The Honor Code prohibits cheating.
- The Spirit of the Code requires respect for the persons and property of others. The Honor Code prohibits stealing.
- The Spirit of the Code demands a personal commitment to upholding the ethical standards which gird the profession of arms. The Honor Code prohibits toleration of violations."

Accordingly, if one thinks about it, the Honor Code should be the standard of ethical behavior not just for PMA cadets but for all Filipino professionals.

* * *

Later this week, unless there is a dramatic change in plans, we shall once again witness the assumption of a new chief of staff of the Armed Forces. Gen. Efren Abu matches his fifth birthday on Friday, June 24 and leaves end of the service after eight decades of office.

The leading contenders for the post are the major service commanders. Ang officer in command of the Philippine Army, Vice Adm. Ernesto De Leon, commanding general of the Philippine Army, Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga, and the commanding general of the Philippine Air Force, Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes. While De Leon and Senga belong to the same class as the PMA, the Class of 1972 John Adolfo Andrew, not Reyes is one class behind (1973). De Leon has the seniority in terms of time in grade, but Senga commands the largest force in the AFP.

De Leon made a name for himself as the commander of the group which snatched down Abu Sabaya and his henchmen after the course of Dos. via Dominicos in June 2002. On the other hand, Senga, as head of the Joint Task Force Ranao in 2000, led the campaign against the MILF in the Buliok complex in Pikit, Cotabato resulting in the capture of the MILF command, armed and communications center.

The incoming chief of staff will be the seventh since the assumption to office some four years ago of President Macapagal-Arroyo. As I mentioned in an earlier column, the Senate recently passed legislation prescribing a three-year term of office for the AFP chief of staff. In the House, a similar bill has already cleared the committee on national defense chaired by Rep. Rollin Gonzalez. It now awaits plenary action, but apparently the legislature is rather lax from its course of inaction. It seems that the House could **thus the Palace prefers the present arrangement** over that one where a chief of staff has a three-year term of office. What says he the AFP?

Poetry for 'papas'

At Large

Rivera Francisco David

SOMEONE once wrote that your relationship with your father is your first relationship of choice. Babies have no choice but to bond with their mothers, first of all, because they are not their primary sources of food, nurturing and cleaning. But they do have a choice whether to bond with their fathers or not. A father is more than a sperm donor. He has to earn the privilege of being your father. You cannot be taken for granted because you want to, and not because your life depends on it.

I imagine that the first time a child realizes at her father's love is exhilarating but then reflection, like one of her own toddlers, because this human being is someone she likes having around, because he makes her laugh, because at last in the morning, parks her up when she cries, and tucks her in at night. It's that and because he's always there for her.

My children have memorable questions—some for a few songs opera exceptions—but fathers are not one of them. My daughters, the twins, don't have their father and the reasons will be an many, pretty, big reasons. They respect him, they might say from time to time. They hardly know him, might be a more appropriate word. Their father is a man who is busy, occupied by extra curriculars, and sadly finds wasted time believing that nurturing is work. In only the moments, many fathers remain strangers to their children, and their children remain strangers to their fathers. Almost to a man, the young ladies said they wanted the man's open, more serious, stable, less afraid to show their feelings, less workaholic attributes. Not too much to ask for.

I hit both sorry for those two who grew up haunted by the distance between them and their fathers, and at the same time happy for their children. Because of that gap, they may learn to be more involved in their relationships of choice. Babies have no choice but to bond with their mothers, first of all, because they are

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to [redacted]@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

'Hello Garci'

WE are running the transcripts of two computer discs containing the supposed taped conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano that Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye played to reporters on June 6.

Opposition politicians claim that the audio is evidence that Ms Arroyo cheated in last year's presidential election. The audio shows a woman who sounds like Ms Arroyo asking a man, said to be Garcillano, to rig the 2004 election by producing a one-million margin over her nearest rival.

Bunye said on June 8 that it was Ms Arroyo's voice on the tapes. Garcillano denied his was the other voice, but two former heads of the Commission on Elections—Christian Monsod and Haydee Demetrio—claimed that the man's voice was Garcillano's.

Ms Arroyo has kept mum on the tapes amid calls that she step down.

Talk of the Town arranged the conversations in chronological order and excluded the exchange between Garcillano and a man whose voice sounded like Jose Miguel Arroyo's.

The transcript of the conversations alleged by Malacañang to be the altered recording is culled here: Tape 1. Tape 2 is the transcript of the conversations alleged by the Palace to be the original recording. The conversations were transcribed by INQ7.

Some claims, including an electronics engineer, who examined the tapes, that the "altered" version contains the authentic conversation between Ms Arroyo and Garcillano, and that the "original" is the bogus one.

The audio files of the two CDs can be accessed at www.inq7.net/tape.

The Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism has posted on http://pcij.org/blog the transcript of the full three-hour recording of the conversations between Garcillano and various individuals such as Ms Arroyo, her husband Jose Miguel and senatorial candidate Robert Barbers. The transcript is also available at http://philippinepdr.com/complete-transcript.pdf.

TAPE 1 ("Altered" version)

26 11/04/1 May 2004

Woman: Hello.
Man: Hello marhay, good morning.
Woman: Hi Virgie, si Ronnie, nagkwentuhan kami nakalimot ako mo-ano pala kahapon kaya mga pasensya, pasensya, nakatawa kasi kami, ha-ha-ha, ano kasi, nakalimot ako.

26 11/2/04 May 2004

Man: Hello, yes, yes.
Woman: Hello, hello.
Man: Hello hello.
Woman: Hindi kaya pwedeng mo-delay nang onting sa national tabulation ang Lanao del Norte? Kasi, eh, ano, nagpapa-late nang konti ang Comelec sa Lanao del Norte, eh, kaya pwede kaya nang onting ano, ng, ng, ng

Across the NATION
Senior Editor Tony Binayoda

GMA told to do a Clinton in probe

By Jhonness Magallanes
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, who heads the league of governors, yesterday suggested that President Macapagal-Arroyo follow what then U.S. President Bill Clinton did if she wanted to give a statement on the wiretapping scandal.

Aumentado recalled that when Clinton was being investigated for the 1998 alleged intern affair with White House aide Monica Lewinsky, the former U.S. President did not show up in Congress but he gave a statement through video.

"I think the President, if properly advised—and I am not advising Congress, could do what President Clinton did. He made a statement by video and the videotape was shown to the committee of the 20 congress investigating the Lewinsky affair," Aumentado said.

Aumentado explained the word "properly requested" because according to him, there is that so-called in-her-department concerns, and in doubts if Congress will subpoena the President to appear before the body.

Aumentado, who is president of both the League of Governors of the Philippines (LGP) and Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP), said Congress should respect the President's position. If she would refuse to comment on the issue (alleged bally-

MEMORIZED scores as she strikes at the Dinagat Island Sanjiwa Cultural Center. Barangay Pinka-isa, San Jose, Antique during the awarding of local titles

hooing) and there is clear evidence, then Congress should not issue a subpoena.

Besides, he added, the audio recording has yet to be authenticated and removal audio recordings are coming out already. He also pointed to alleged tapes that the controversial audio recording was the handiwork of the opposition.

However, Aumentado said he would rather that the President make a statement on the wiretapping controversy because "she (case) is no longer a battle of evidence but a battle of propaganda."

"This is not anymore a battle of evidence since that alleged wiretapped conversation is not authentic for evidence in any court of justice or even in administrative proceedings but this is now a battle of propaganda," Aumentado said.

Aumentado, who was a three-term congressman in Bohol, said the planned investigation of the different accusation in the House is a prerogative of the congressmen, but added that it should be "in aid of legislation."

Aumentado suggested to the all house committees to draw rules and regulations and parameters on the investigations.

Aumentado said witnesses who have relevant and direct-bearing statements should be allowed to testify. This way, he said, the investigations in Congress will not become a political circus.

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PDI Capiz correspondent reports getting threats

ROXAS CITY—The Inquirer correspondent in Capiz has received a death threat through a letter sent to him by text message calling itself the "Eastern Panay Peace Commission of Nestito Aguayo Command."

The text message contained grammatical errors and misspellings, threatening to "finish off" Felipe T. Cañeso Jr. for "antigovernment" articles.

The letter was delivered by an unidentified man on Monday afternoon at the Roxas City news office of Punto News, a regional newspaper in Western Visayas where Cañeso is the bureau chief. The letter, dated May 31, 2005, bears no signature, logo or letterhead.

Cañeso said he did not know who he got the death threat, as he had no recent articles that could be construed as "antigovernment." He said he routinely writes the New People's Army (NPA) hard stories about the group.

Cañeso has been an Inquirer correspondent for over a year and his most recent news stories involved the alleged irregularities involving the multimillion-peso expansion project of Roxas City's radio district.

The letter also accused Cañeso of "selling" his stories for Cañeso said that in his more than a decade as journalist in Capiz, he never "sold" any news story as his beat.

The letter-writer gave simple reason that would make my family, my body and even my detractors proud of me," Cañeso said.

Cañeso said he had reported the matter to the police for investigation.

Meanwhile, the provincial board of Capiz on Friday passed a resolution expressing support for journalists' struggle to uphold press freedom in the country.

The resolution, authored by board member Gilbert Andrada, said the Philippine media, considered as "watchdogs" of the society, should be "vigilant, vigilant and fearless in its reportage and commentaries against those who rob the people of basic civil liberties, bread, greed and corruption, on illegal drugs and gambling or on those who try to perpetuate criminality in society."

"The passage of the resolution has nothing to do with the death threats recently received by Cañeso as Andrada was not aware that the threat had received death threats."

"All media organizations in the country at present, believe that there can be no Press Freedom, if journalists... exist in conditions of fear, poverty and corruption, and can't run the Filipino people must under such conditions," stressed Andrada, also a staunch human rights activist in Capiz. From a report by Felipe T. Cañeso, PDI Visayas Bureau

7 animal species in Sierra Madre listed as endangered

TUGUEGARAO, Isabela—Seven animal species found in the northern Sierra Madre Natural Park have been included in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources endangered list, pending environmentalists' push for its total protection.

William Suyuk, community environment and natural resources officer in Palanan town and concurrent protected area superintendent, said the endangered species are the sea turtle or pawikan (Chelonia mydas), Philippine flying fox or bat (Pteropus vampyrus lanensis), Philippine eagle (Pithecophaga jefferyi), wild boar (Sus philippensis), Philippine brown deer (Cervus mariannus), dead tree (Rhizophora mucronata), and the flame-horned bird-eater (Penelopides panini).

The local environment office has also documented reports that the number of other fauna species such as the Philippine hornbill or tarictic, the Philippine crocodile or buhaya (Crocodylus mindorensis), the boat bat (Pteropus speciosus), and the Philippine eagle and Dulit cat (Prionailurus) has been decreasing rapidly in the east and north.

Suyuk said the decrease in animal population in the Sierra Madre can be traced to many factors, among them were the devastating forest cover in the area and illegal hunting.

The endangered species belong to the national list of species of Philippine wild birds, mammals, and reptiles that need to be protected and conserved, he said.

DENR records showed that the park's forest cover was intact in 1904. In the late 1950s, logging operations had reached its forest areas and by the 1960s, massive logging operations were reported there.

In 1987, only one-third of the eastern portion of the park was considered virgin forest.

On Sept. 7, 1979, the DENR declared as wilderness area the forest land within the 40-km radius from Palanan. Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Cops hunt doc suspected in wife's murder

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Police here launched a manhunt for a government doctor, who was suspected of killing his physician wife last week.

Chief Inspector Guerra, investigator at the Macasandig police station, said they have already filmed no alarm for the arrest of Pantuk Mandyamin, municipal health officer of Talayan, Maguindanao.

"We are suspecting that he is hiding in Iligan or Isabela City though he could also be in Lanao del Sur. We have already alarmed all the police stations in the country to help us find him," Guerra said.

Mandyamin disappeared on June 11, shortly before the body of his wife, Cheryl Dapay, was discovered in their house at Tavalali Subdivision in Barangay Macasandig here.

A male homebody was trying to wake her up that day because the technician earlier summoned to repair her computer arrived.

When he failed to answer, the boy climbed up the window and saw Cheryl's body soiled.

Based on initial investigation conducted by the police, Cheryl, a 46-year-old gynecologist, was violently murdered and strangled to death.

"Her mouth was deformed, her neck showed traces of choking and her nape was swelling," Guerra said.

He said they also found her mobile phone, walking cards and pieces of jewelry missing.

An autopsy conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation in Northern Mindanao showed that Cheryl was already dead about six to eight hours before her body was found.

Guerra said follow-up investigation conducted on the death of Cheryl revealed that she and her husband had been sleeping on separate rooms for years now.

He said the police learned that the couple was trying to get their marriage annulled.

Guerra said the couple's daughter told police she heard her parents having another argument. Cesar M. Ismin, PIA Mindanao Bureau

RIGHT OF WAY
A paraplegic makes his way through uphill traffic in downtown Baguio City unmindful of the danger of being hit by motor vehicles along Session Road.

Gov't wage hike sought

By Felipe V. Calleja
PIA Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—Gov. Mar Roxas said he would like a bill that will increase the salaries of about 1.2 million state employees.

Roxas, chair of the Senate committee on economic affairs, said on a statement released by his office on Friday that the Salary Standardization Law should be reviewed, considering the current cost of living.

Under Senate bill, the Department of Budget and Management will determine the new salary scales and re-structured security retirement and volunteer separation package for government employees.

"With the rising prices of gasoline, electricity, public transport fares and basic goods, the present range of salaries is just not enough for government employees and workers in services," Roxas said.

Roxas said the Salary Standardization Law was passed in 1989 and set the salary range of government employees from P2,890 to P25,000. It was first amended in 1994 and again in 2001, increasing the salary range from P6,694,000 to P10,000.

Currently the salary scale under the law ranges from P5,083 to P57,750, with the highest scale representing the President's salary.

In the case of public school teachers, Roxas noted that they "are given the important task of educating our children and yet they are only receiving P9,999 a month with a workload of at least 50 students per teacher."

The take home pay of teachers is even lower than P9,999, and is not enough to support a family with taxes and contributions to the GSIS.

BEHIND the bars of the Baguio City Jail are alternative classrooms like this one conducted by Reynor Mendiola (facing camera), a government teacher who offers functional literacy courses to prisoner inmates each week.

Gov't helps children cope with life in jail

By Donna Bonnelle
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—He stood out among the bunch of teenagers dancing around folded newspapers on the jail floor, old hairstyle played till their hair is half-shaved.

They were playing the newspaper dance during one of the rare occasions when they leave their confines behind and come together as a group for recreation.

"Buster" (youngest child) was skipping around with the newspapers in delight and giving his dance partner, Boss, the sweetest smile he could muster.

At 14, Buster is the youngest of the 23 juvenile inmates at the Baguio City Jail. Imprisoned for possession of illegal drugs, he would spend most of his days dreaming of being reunited with his family and regretting having been involved with illegal drug dealing.

But Buster said that he had not known exactly what he was carrying. All he knew was that an older cousin needed to have something delivered and he was the "runner."

He did not know that his cousin was already under police surveillance. And yet when the police barged into their house, Buster was caught with a packet of shabu in his pocket.

"It's lonely in jail. I miss my mother and my siblings. I want to be with them. I don't want to miss their pictures with me," Buster told the journalist.

"I don't have friends here. I wouldn't think my friends [because] they really are. They steal other's cow [others] I would manage to keep," he said.

Buster said only during Wednesdays and Fridays would the inmates be locked down so he and his fellows young inmates were allowed to leave their cells to play basketball or attend classes at the jail's recreation center.

Prison authorities started weekly functional literacy classes, which are informal alternatives basically for social workers. During these sessions, they are taught whatever they wish to learn to refurbish their self-esteem, confidence and self-worth.

Mobile teacher

Reynor Mendiola, a "mobile" teacher of the Department of Education and a member of the Accessible Access Network (ANet), is among the group's main movers.

The ANet is a network of agencies advocating concessions justice in the country and working to prevent children from getting into trouble with the law, entrusting ex-offenders and reintegrating them into society.

Mendiola leads the youngsters in his female, He teaches them songs of hope and change, or whatever his students wish to learn for the day.

He said he does not follow any lesson plan; everything is planned by me. He said this "alternative learning."

Through him, the children learn to have fun while learning. They also learn how to react sometimes to difficulty.

The 404 modern-day juveniles after they are released from prison (though a program called Modern Youth Reintegration MYOL whose mission has an answer to his kind question) is plan.

The MYO is headed by Elena Schwarz, 136 secretary, and 22-year-old MYO president and volunteer assistance.

The organization is responsible for the concessions, volunteers and people-building activities through various seminars, workshops and training programs, as well as recreational trips to strengthen camaraderie within the group.

Reform

Asi said he wanted to straighten out his life by entering a college degree. He was motivated by the lasting death of a schoolmate in 2000 when he was in high school. Although he said he did not deliver the killer blows on one of their fraternity neophytes, the nine fraternity members present during the hazing incident were charged with murder. The charges were later changed to homicide because there were minors above the crime was committed.

Asi spent almost a year in jail. He reconciled his studies and joined the JAG after he was released from prison.

He is a third year student in elementary engineering at the St. Louis University here, and is planning to study law in social science.

"I have learned a lot and have grown that I made a mistake once. I have also been able to help a lot of other people who, like me, share the same experience," he said.

"My need is 4 kilos up on juvenile who are in conflict with the law. We should not leave them to stay because they will go back [to old ways] of crime). The hope that, stay in jail, the more they will learn [how to] commit crimes," said Executive Judge Emmanuela Cabalo-Cortes.

The JAG site works to prevent minors from committing crimes. In that aspect, Mendiola is also being watched by the judge to ensure possible "students." He is a regular at the city market and the city parks, holding classes wherever and whenever he can. Instructions he holds his classes in the open, crowded and polluted market offices or in the parks.

Mendiola is not alone in this kind of work. Modesto Bautista, chief of the elementary division of the Department of Education, and the agency has 15 mobile teachers in the Cordillera, most of them commute and do session areas of Benguet.

RP's oldest priest buried

SAN PABLO CITY—The Philippines' oldest priest who, shortly before he died, still sought to be allowed to say holy Mass, was buried on Friday at the San Pablo Metropolitan Cemetery following the Concelebrated Funeral Mass 2 p.m. at the San Pablo Cathedral in the city.

He died of kidney tumor on Tuesday evening.

Msgr. Jesse U. Ellason, who took care of the late Fr. Quirino Quevarra Gervasio, 102, and newly installed St. Peter College Seminary Rector Jerry Gaela, facilitated the transfer of the priest's remains from the seminary chapel to the cathedral at about 1 p.m. and prepared the dead clothes for the solemn Eucharistic Celebration, after which the procession followed.

At least four bishops and more than 150 priests joined the Funeral Mass for their fellow comrade who, according to Ellason, served as the model of fidelity to God and the church of priests and seminarians.

The seminary chapel, spilling with priests, nuns, seminarians, parishioners, friends and relatives, overflowed to the hallways and the yard as heard various testimonies praising Father Lolo, as Gervasio was fondly called, for his untiring commitment to the ministry without counting the cost, even if this meant he would sometimes

Gaela said the old priest's health and long life could have been the result of his regimen or an effective prayer.

"He lived to be almost to his younger years even

football, horse riding and boxing," he said.

"When Manny Pacquiao was slated to fight against Mexican boxer Eleazar Valenzuela, Father Lolo marked to watch the match in order to watch up on the fight. But when Manny was defeated, Father Lolo became silent and lost his appetite," Gaela recalled.

When asked why, Gervasio answered, "I was tired because they [ad-versaries] derailed Pacquiao."

Fr. Cynthia Bautista, the old priest's personal physician of 15 years, said she started attending to Gervasio's health after finishing her training in medicine.

"Father Lolo was, for me and my loved ones, an important part of our family. He was always at our home since I was a little girl. An important occasion. He completes weddings, prayer life and detachment from material affairs, more our other fans," Bautista, who conducted the priest's deathbed, admitted.

In 2002, when Father Lolo went on a tour with Bautista, among others, the doctor did not want to leave whenever priest to accompany the old clerk.

She said Father Lolo was supposed to go on another tour last May to Jerusalem and other holy places, but she sighed with relief when the trip did not materialize because the priest's condition would have made travel very difficult on his part. Rommel O. Perez, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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INSULAR LIFE

INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandigued
Assoc. Ed./News A. Alcuaz

Bulane carnage: From victims to accused

By Aquilino Z. Zonio
Digos City, Davao Del Sur

LYING on the ground wounded, Richard Bulane saw a man in fatigues rushing to him. The man, brandishing an M-16 rifle, drew out a knife to finish him off. From a few meters, a familiar voice rang, "Hold it!" The soldier backed off and walked away to join his colleagues.

The voice came from Leonardo Taborada, a member of the militia and Richard's cousin. Taborada had saved Richard's life.

It was around 10 a.m. of Feb. 8 and Bulane was oozing from his wounds. He pleaded to the soldiers to bring him to a hospital, but they abandoned him. He arrived at the hospital around 4 p.m., after about six hours of agonizing pain.

The carnage

In his bed at the Digos Provincial Hospital, Richard, a tribal leader in Sitio Latil and one of the three survivors in the Feb. 8 carnage in the remote barangay of Colorondon in Matanao, Davao Del Sur, recalled how the massacre happened.

His older brother, Rogelio, 42, and his son Ricky, 14, left the site at around 9 p.m. on Feb. 7 to catch frogs and shrimps from the Sagub River, about a kilometer from their place.

Eager to bring home a good catch, Rogelio and his son stayed the whole night by the river. They slept past midnight beneath a huge rock by the river bank.

They woke up at around 6 a.m. Rogelio was cooking breakfast when suddenly he heard bursts of gunfire.

The bullets that hit him in the back and legs knocked him down. He could hardly move. He yelled to his son to run home to tell relatives what happened to them.

Ricky ran as fast as he could. The soldiers shot him and he was hit but he reached the village nonetheless.

Unable to recognize the perpetrators, Ricky told his uncle that they were attacked by bandits and his father was already dead.

Rogelio's brothers Pemetrio, 34; Richard, 29; Pablito, 27; and Francisco, 24, and their sister Mariana and three other relatives rushed to the place. Four of them grabbed their shotguns called "Tabo-li-nars."

They were approaching the area when Richard saw armed men in firing position looking by the roadside.

They shouted: "We are civilians!" But the men shot at them.

Pemetrio, Pablito and Francisco escaped unscathed but Rogelio was killed by a blocking shot per report of the Bravo company of the Army's 203th Infantry Battalion at nearby Sitio Hoong Ang.

Rebels and bandits

Richard believed Rogelio and Ricky were shot by the soldiers thinking they were New People's Army (NPA) rebels.

"Maybe they were mistaken for NPA rebels by the military when they were seen cooking in the jungle. But military men shouldn't have shot them. They were unarmed," Richard said.

The military claimed in its press release that it was a legitimate encounter, not a massacre.

In the same press release, the military claimed that they recovered three shotguns from the scene of the encounters.

But Richard belied the military claim saying, "Do NPA rebels carry home-made shotguns? Everybody knows they carry high-powered firearms."

Richard admitted to having served as a military asset for a short period of time, but he had severed his ties with them upon realizing that it was putting his life and those of his family members in danger.

This, he said, could be one of the reasons the soldiers erred or think him off when he was mercifully wounded on the ground.

He did not know the soldiers involved in the attack but said he could recognize some of their faces.

Settlement

Despite losing three brothers in the incident, Richard is not harboring rancor against the military.

The incident made their lives difficult. "We were maimed. I don't know whether we could still glow the field. Our lives have been greatly affected but I want this problem to be settled through peaceful means."

They wanted the military to compensate them for the damage and injuries they suffered during the carnage.

The exact amount would be discussed by members of the Bulane clan.

But in a bizarre twist of events, the victims have become the accused.

On Feb. 11, the military filed an unexpected murder charges against Richard and the others.

A warrant of arrest was issued with amount of bails by the local court on Feb. 28 without First hearing the side of the victims.

Commander Carillo, legal counsel for the victims, said representatives from the military admitted to the killing during the dialogue in the later part of February held in Matanao, Davao.

The dialogue was attended by local officials of Matanao, some investors, nongovernment organizations, the victims' family and the military.

"It's amusing that they (military) are sure they are the victims. I was there in the dialogue when the representatives of the military admitted to having killed the victims because they are NPAs and bandits," Carillo said.

Even if the lesions that will not free him in legal ground, Carillo said he will avail of the rights of speech and liberty.

"Killing somebody because he is an NPA or a bandit is not enough justification," he said.

A case against the government soldiers has been filed before the Commission on Human Rights.

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Education for indigenous folk tagged urgent

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The world community of indigenous peoples are urging United Nations member nations, like the Philippines, to "rethink" their education policies to help solve the number of educated indigenous peoples.

This was the statement of the 5th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues last month, after it assessed a UN recommendation "to achieve universal primary education" by 2015, said forum chair Victoria Tauli-Corpuz.

Corpuz, executive director of the Baguio-based Tebtebba Foundation, is the first Filipino to be elected chair of the UN body.

The session, which ended on May 27 in New York, analyzed the UN Millennium Development Goals for 2015 that are designed to eradicate world poverty. One such goal is universal education.

A 2000 Tebtebba study that was commissioned by the Department of Education noted that poverty and rural improprieties forced many pupils from indigenous Filipino communities to drop out before even reaching high school, according to historian Raymond Bonifacio, the study leader.

Bonifacio said the chief culprit is language. Most schools are bound by Bilakeanlagin policy to make English the primary school language. This makes traditional classroom lessons inaccessible to indigenous Filipinos, he said.

But the protagonists for the session did not assume indigenous education failed because the teaching community still described indigenous peoples as "backward and primitive." Corpuz noted few countries have acknowledged the rich, multicultural assets of indigenous knowledge. She said governments, like the Philippines, must alter "the mindset that indigenous peoples cannot contribute to nation-building because they are primitive."

Corpuz pointed Education Secretary Fernando Abad's recent directive allowing communities to develop their own education curriculum and standards that are suited to their villages' points of view.

"Indigenous peoples should stop insisting on providing simply free basic education, because the new generations of poor people need education that is relevant to their lives," she said.

"If they can integrate the world views, the languages, and the different cultures into school curriculums, that would make the courses more relevant and appropriate for indigenous peoples."

The Tebtebba study was commissioned by former Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus, but Corpuz said he was unable to accept the study recommendations because the government budget limited his resources in building classrooms instead of executing policies for the scholarly indigenous student population.

But Corpuz praised Education Secretary Fernando Abad's recent directive allowing communities to develop their own education curriculum and standards that are suited to their villages' points of view.

BONDAGE
Farmers held an indigenation rally in front of the Department of Land Reform (June 15) to show their disdain for the Arroyo administration and the neglect of agrarian reform.

Indigenous folk use ethnic ways to protect forest

By Maurice Malanes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Indigenous folk are resorting to booby traps, spears, bolos or machetes, and dukots (sentry) to guard their ancestral lands against encroachment from outsiders, who include mining and plantation firms and thieves of genetic resources.

Unable to get help from forest rangers of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, some indigenous communities have organized what they call "tribal" and "tribal guards" and "hunting patrol" (forest guards) to represent whenever is left of their forest and other resources.

"We don't have guns, but our tribal guards are adept in setting up traps and using spears, bolos, and bows and arrows. If necessary, to guard whatever is left of our forests and other resources," said Dano Alibedis Ibiko of Agnayao declared.

The Mandaya tribal leader was among 11 participants in a recent capacity-building workshop here on how indigenous peoples can assert their rights over their land and resources.

Tribal roost

Organized by Tebtebba, an international resource center for indigenous peoples, and by the Third World Network, an international policy advocacy group, the workshop drew indigenous folk from Mindanao, Palawan, Mindoro, and the Cordillera.

Ibiko said his tribe are contesting a paper milling firm's timber license agreement, which, the tribal leader said, has been converted into an industrial forest management agreement or IFMA.

Through the ilmo, the firm has been logging in Manobo communities without first getting the free and prior informed consent," Ibiko said.

"We have thus organized our tribal guards to protect our remaining watersheds, which the paper mill firm seeks to log," he said, to be registered dummy corporations that the local government don't respect the community's right to free and prior informed consent.

Same boat

Like the Mandaya, the Talaandig folk of Bukidnon have also organized "cultural guards," who are also armed too only with spears and bolos but also with "spiritual technology" like Indayog or Kaamulan.

"We can use the air and dust as if these fall on the eyes of encroachers, they can get blind," he said.

Entending cultural guards are said to be well-versed about every plant and animal species as they learn what to protect in the same way the spiritual guards know every spirit that guards our forests, mountains and rivers so they know when to contact for help," said Ibiko.

DA sees 65,000 new jobs through agri programs

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TALIBAN CITY—The Department of Agriculture has earmarked for agribusiness development this year around 21,700 hectares of "new lands" in Eastern Visayas, which is expected to increase food production and generate about 65,000 new jobs in the region.

Leo Cabrella, DA executive director for Eastern Visayas, said about half of the 21,700 ha represent coconut lands that are idle or not fully utilized, where farmers can do intercropping and undertake aquaculture and livestock integration projects.

Development of idle lands for agribusiness is one of the main goals of the agriculture department in support of the 10-point agenda of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Lower prices

The other goal is to bring down the cost of basic commodities such as rice, fish, vegetables, pork, poultry, eggs and corn through productivity enhancement, efficient distribution and improved retailing.

"What is included in goal one is our agribusiness plan are coconut and some high value crops like mango, jackfruit, coffee, abaca," Cabrella said. However, he added that the area not included because officials were not sure if they could open new irrigated rice areas due to funding constraints.

Congressmen and governors in Eastern Visayas, the DA regional chief said, have indicated their support for the agribusiness project which "is expected to generate 65,000 new jobs" in the region.

Leaders' help

Meanwhile, in an effort to increase rice productivity in Leyte, the DA will tap middle farmer leaders to undertake extension service delivery to enable rice farmers to their respective town under the agency's Farmer-led Extension Initiative (FLEI), a program that supports the agency's hybrid rice commercialization program.

Cabrella explained that at present, extension delivery is predominantly the function of local government units but "we believe that this delivery system of LGUs is not enough."

Under the FLEI program, a farmer leader, to be trained as a community-based agricultural technician, will have to reach out to other farmers and teach them modern farming methods particularly on the use of hybrid rice.

Participants in the FLEI program, he said, will be given free seeds from Philrice and P15,000 which the DA will allocate for supplies and other materials and honoraria of the farmer-leader and the agricultural technician.

Environment execs tap Dumagats, Agtas to protect Sierra Madre

TUMAUINI, Isabela—Dumagats and Agtas in Isabela have been tapped by environment officials to guard the Sierra Madre Natural Park, one of the few remaining virgin forests in the country.

William Savella, community environment and natural resources officer in Tumauini and concurrent protected area superintendent, said the natives in the coastal areas have been tapped and trained to manage and develop the natural park without destroying its precious forest.

The new barrios and local nongovernment environment groups have joined the conservation efforts following the formal roll out of World Wide Fund (WWF) for Nature-Philippines in April this year after the Netherlands government withdrew its funding support for the P575-million southern Sierra Madre Natural Park conservation project in December last year, Savella said.

Tribal help

He said Sonny Kalalusan and Sonny Dagat-ngata—formed mostly by Dumagats, Agtas and villagers. have been helping the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in implementing environment laws, especially in prohibiting the capture, killing, and trade of wildlife species.

Dumagat natives and residents in the protected areas have been also monitoring illegal fish operations in the coastal waters to prevent poaching, illegal fishing and hunting, he added.

The 359,486-hectare natural park straddles Dinapigue, Palanan, Maconacon, Divilacan, San Mariano, Ilagan, San Pablo, Cabagan, Sta. Maria and Tumauini towns.

Home

The park is home to at least 3,000 Dumagats and Agtas, who mostly depend on hunting and fishing for a living.

In December last year, The Netherlands government withdrew its funding support for the Sierra Madre project, citing the lack of commitment among local and national officials to pursue forest conservation in the province.

The Plan International undertook the first phase of the project while the WWF-Philippines implemented the second phase. Villamor Visaya Jr., *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Tribe concerns, ecology clash on Mt. Pulag

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Mount Pulag, Luzon's highest peak, continues to boast with its wildlife and pristine forests but environment officials are saying that its lower ranges are slowly suffering from the effects of a clash between infrastructure development and ecosystem preservation.

Tuesday Tandoy, Mt. Pulag National Park superintendent, said the mountain's ecosystem activities are also being dragged to court to issue involving ancestral land claims and forest protection measures.

Tandoy said these issues have distracted the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' efforts to maintain Mt. Pulag's allure as home of endangered species and as a summit favorite for trekkers and climbers.

Mt. Pulag, also the country's second highest peak, is 2,922 meters above sea level and covers 11,250 hectares of virgin grasslands and lush forests.

Tandoy blamed the ancestral boundary disputes in the mountain's lower confines as the culprit behind the conflict that had brought community between local governments and villages.

Claims

"One town, for instance, will claim that this part four of the mountain is within its territory and decides to begin clearing and leveling it as a vegetable farm. But the next town with another claim may want the area to remain as a forest reserve," she said.

Mt. Pulag, she said, is so vast that its slopes cover 14 villages in five towns—Bokod, Kabayan and Bagulin in Benguet, Tinoc in Ifugao and Kayapa in Nueva Vizcaya province.

"Directly affected by efforts to develop the trails to preserve the forests are 14 indigenous communities with diverse cultural practices," Tandoy told the reporters.

She said the ancestral land claims of indigenous communities often clash with the DENR's biodiversity approach in preserving Mt. Pulag, now a proposed national park.

Livelihood

"Believing that a forest is part of their ancestral domain, the villagers [would] deny government officials any development projects pertaining to agriculture purposes since depending it their only means of livelihood," she said.

Mt. Tandoy said the more-would disturb the park's wildlife resources and other natural wealth.

She said there are ancestral land issues have affected the DENR's programs to instantly the mountain's protection.

That has resulted to what Tandoy described as "a very unsustainable subsistence"—that the people use Mt. Pulag preservation easements as a threat to their farming while environment officials are farming as a threat to the park's preservation.

Guidance sought

Tandoy said the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples should issue clear guidelines to settle the problem of ancestral land domains amid the existence of protected natural parks such as Mt. Pulag.

She said, however, that the DENR is trying its best to address these social concerns, the issue of which is the existence of a Protected Area Management Board that includes representatives of indigenous communities.

The PAMB, she said, is a policy making body that approves all development projects within Mt. Pulag.

As part of the mountain's eco-tourism programs, Tandoy said the DENR has also begun hiring members of indigenous communities as tourist guides and park rangers to provide them an alternative means of livelihood. *Rebecca Carriko, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Zambo health execs raise alarm on return of dengue

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Health authorities said the high number of dengue cases monitored here from January to June 13 was enough to declare an outbreak.

Health Undersecretary Mildred Portuguese admitted that there has been a rise in the number of dengue cases nationwide but the city has registered the highest increase.

"Something should be done for prevention and by health authority alone but for the communities as a whole," she said.

"The number of dengue cases for the past months (is) eight times higher than in 2004. We really have an outbreak here," said Lala Salalila, an epidemiologist at the Department of Health here.

Salalila said based on office records, at least 425 cases of dengue have already been monitored since the start of the year.

The DOH's Dengue Monitoring and Control Program reported that for 2004, only 240 cases of dengue were recorded in the city.

Rodel Agbulos, city health officer, said the rise in the number of dengue cases in the city is "very, very alarming."

Agbulos said from January, his office has already monitored at least three deaths from dengue.

He did not say in which period the victims died but said they were an infant, a pre-school child and a 62-year-old adult.

Agbulos said the increase in the number of dengue cases occurred despite the creation of a Dengue Brigade.

"We've been 40 up against dengue... yet the number of cases is increasing," he said.

Salalila said residents could be partly blamed for the sharp rise in the number of dengue cases.

"We are doing everything. (But) the community is very passive, very laborious about the dengue campaign and control," Salalila said.

She said it was important that the city government declare a dengue outbreak and conduct a citywide clean-up drive, similar to what was done in 1998 and 2001. *John S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

NEW HOME
Dagupan City Hall workers carry steel railings to serve as a fence for this vintage steam locomotive which will be on display at the city plaza. The locomotive arrived in the city via the road in the city's 30th Ayew as Dagupan celebrates its anniversary.

ROUNDUP

Most wanted held

ZIGABY CITY—After nine years of hiding, Cavalig Albay's No. 1 most wanted person was arrested on June 7. Rene Martin, 41, of Barangay Tambog, Cavalig, was charged with murder in 1996. Martin was arrested by Barangay 1, Calamba City at Laguna by a team led by Senior Insp. Rogelio Bautista III. The Cavalig municipal police office. A warrant of arrest had been issued by Judge Gregorio Cornelio of the Regional Trial Court Branch 4 here.

Jeff U. Baldero, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Volunteers plant corra

PAMPLAS, Quezon—Around 500 boy scouts, scallops and students in the Bicolano Watershed Area in Barangay Sta. Cristina, Alabat on June 14, 4 hold 200 volunteers as part of the world conservation day. The volunteers were led by employees of the Mount Pagdo Sta. Cristina, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Pagdo Municipal Agricultural Office, 4-H Club and the Sangguniang Kabataan of Pagdo Jan and Alabat on towers. Each volunteer was assigned to plant almost three corra seedlings.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Sawmill raided

LUCENA CITY—A sawmill suspected of operating illegally in Barangay Magsaysay in Infanta, Quezon was raided on Monday by police and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Armed with a search warrant issued by Judge Lucas Dela, of the municipal trial court of Infanta, the authorities seized about 2,000 board feet of newly sawn lumber from unidentified sources. The raiders also confiscated an illegally installed band saw. Police identified the sawmill as one Juanito Idrosa. Mr. Idrosa's employees fled the scene when the raiders arrived. No arrests were made for the DENR officials emphasize that violators and saboteurs.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Bus robbery

LUCENA CITY—Three men robbed the passengers of a BLTB-bound bus on Tuesday, June 14 in Quezon province. The thieves took away some cash and valuables from the passengers of the bus which was traveling along Maharlika Highway in Barangay San Luis, Tagkawayan, Quezon at around 8 p.m. when one of the suspects fired his gun and announced a hold-up. Responding policemen identified one of the suspects as Rolando Lucas, 31 of the said village. Police also recovered a .38 cal. revolver from the escape route of the suspects.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

6 die in accident

BUTUAN CITY—Six people died when a 10-wheeler truck rammed a passenger motorcycle in Buenavista, Agusan del Norte early morning Friday, June 17. Renato De Guzman, 29, a habal-habal driver died instantly while seven passengers, four people onboard the motorcycle, including the driver died on the spot, while the still-alive died in a hospital.

Franklin Gallgoti, PDI Mindanao Bureau

FUN IN DONATION
Bacon Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson poses with the Right Rev. Member Abbess Mary Coburn Nolan, OSB, after donating P1 million to cash to the Benedictine Nuns of the Eucharistic King of Mt. Carmel. Gov. Singson is holding the donation cash in a bag.

Manila 'junks' junk food for the city's children

From page A20

More acceptable

To make the veggies more acceptable to children, they are dehydrated, ground and mixed with flour, milk, sugar, salt, cornstarch and vitamin mesh, among other things.

The women's group has been tasked to develop innovative recipes and unique food items like the Nutri-Polvoron and the 1-8 Capsules that are made from ground vegetables.

Tabs and brownies get additional money for every piece of polvoron or cupcake they make.

The low-cost but highly nutritious ground vegetables, also called fortified food, can be used in toppings for champorado, rice porridge and several arroz caldo.

Collaborating with the women's group in developing recipes for innovative snacks are the Manila Nutrition Committee and the Department of Science and Technology. The items had to have the approval of the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

"These vegetables maintain their nutritional value. This is good for children who are too finicky averse to vegetables [While] on afternoons, the [children] wouldn't know they are eating vegetables," Bautista said.

Aside from food products, mayors said they had also begun monitoring medicines, like mefenamic capsules.

"I myself have been taking them. They're good, they're very helpful. I felt a lot better since I started taking them. But we're only purchasing them on a limited basis because [preparing them] is a tedious process," the mayor added.

City officials said studies had shown that the intake of fortified noodles in increased weight and height in malnourished children, increased milk production among lactating women, and stronger bones among pregnant women.

Antonino said they hope to conduct a formal study to see if children who are food fed with fortified diet better in school compared to others.

MANILA employees distribute fortified food products to children in one of the 219 day care centers in the city.

Cats take limelight at Galleria

CATS cost pets, they can scratch and they can also be champions.

At least today, different breeds of cats will be competing for the best in show prize at the third and fourth Cat Championship Shows to be held at Robinson's Galleria in Ortigas.

The competition, under the Pinoy Breeders of the Philippines Inc. (PBPI), will be at the Exhibit's Trade Hall.

Several cats will be up for adoption. Competitors and the spectators will be Animal Kingdom Council officials will speak on dealing with the feral population.

Distinguished personalities in the world of cats—Mary Bill of Hong Kong, Joan Henderson of Australia and Lily Lee of the Philippines—will be judging.

Sponsors are IAMS Cat Food, Whiskas, Royal Canin, Friskies and Metal Pilis. (Vivandier).

Rajo Laurel's SUV stolen, crashes

By Jocelyn R. Uy

SAMEN came fast for him.

A thief who tried to steal Rajo Jon Laurel's new Honda Land Cruiser failed when the vehicle hit an electric post nearly slamming yesterday in Barangay Poblacion, Makati City.

The two-month-old black sports utility vehicle (SUV, 141) was parked outside Laurel's office at 6000 Ayala when a man [named] his guard to get the keys from Mr. Driver, Laurel told the investigators yesterday.

"Maybe they were in a hurry that was why he hit the post," Laurel said, who was shocked when he learned of the incident, which happened at 8:15 a.m.

Due to the collision, the car ripped over, injuring his guard, Edgardo Santos.

"[Gunner] might not have used the seatbelt. He was found in the back seat, semi-conscious," Laurel said.

But he added that the suspect was no longer there when police arrived at the scene of the accident.

Demand pushes Nursing up list of choice courses

NURSING appears to be taking big steps up the ladder of the most popular courses in the Philippines.

Last year, there were an additional 24,337 registered nurses following the June and December licensure exams, compared to 3,210 passers of the December 2003 exams, according to the Professional Regulatory Commission.

Last school year, 19 schools, 14 of which are in Metro Manila, offer Nursing, offering a 84 Nursing courses.

Nursing used to be excluded from the list of the five most popular courses in the Philippines in the academic year 2001-2002. But just a year later, in AY 2002-2003, it went up to second place, according to Commission on Higher Education figures.

But it could have been on top, considering that the No. 1 spot that year was occupied not by one course but by one discipline group: the education and teacher training group consisting of the Bachelor and BE in Elementary Secondary and Elementary and Secondary Education.

A total of 296,371 students enrolled in this group, while 177,142 enrolled in Nursing. In the same academic year, enrollees of the medical and allied courses, of which Nursing is a part, reached 326,175. This means that more than half of students who enrolled in that group chose Nursing.

That year, Nursing was reported to be short of about 100,000 nurses, and the United States was expected to have a shortage of 2 million nurses within a decade. This spurred additional interest in Nursing schools from 1182 in 1998 to more than 300 in 2003, according to the Institute of Health Policy and Development Studies.

Meanwhile, according to a separate set of CHED data which showed historical enrollment by discipline group from 1997 to 2003-2004—for free—for those left of 53 course support groups all over the country.

The country was part of Bienvenida Oncology's "Life Can Be Better" campaign aimed at strengthening the medical and psychosocial support system for Filipino with cancer.

"To many cancer patients the beginning of the end is worse than just the end of life. The pain of cancer itself is too much for the pain of leaving loved ones behind, of giving up a future, and of being left alone in the fight for survival," Bienvenida writes in its advocacy sheet.

The need to heal this pain is at the core of Bienvenida Oncology's efforts to link cancer patients, doctors and other experts, and friends and families through the "Life Can Be Better" campaign.

Even as it offers oncology products to cost-effective cancer treatment, Bienvenida acknowledges the bigger importance of making the cancer victims feel that they are not alone in the often lonely journey.

"There is comfort in numbers. Living becomes more meaningful, and death seems more bearable if and when it comes, when the spirit sustains better control of the body, and loss and suffering, standing proud over the inconveniences of daily living," Bienvenida says.

And a night of food, cooking music from the country's most popular young artists at the Megacity in Mandaluyong City proved fit point.

Cats, 24, chose much love and laughter from the concert. The food menu did not make her forget her condition—her breast cancer metastasized only last year—has reminded her that even with the uncertainty of life, she could sing along, just like everyone else.

"Cancer long term. Juice long ago ah. Pasah ka sumuot lama. But. Hindi naman kailangan talaga ka ng sakit mo [It's just cancer. It's only an ailment. You can fight it. You can never be beaten by what ails you]," she said.

Cancer fighter

Lee's companion, 34-year-old Alvin de Guzman, could not agree more. She has been fighting survival cancer since 1998 and her illness is to someone.

De Guzman, president of the Cancer Fighter group in the Philippine General Hospital, said living with other cancer patients was helping her cope emotionally with the ailment.

Cancer met De Guzman much

Rio Diaz son leads drive for victims of cancer

By Blandie S. Rivera

"[If] I lose them," was Ali Alejandro's simple advice to a group of screaming fans.

That evening, the screaming fans were not your regular pop star groupies but families and friends of cancer patients, cancer survivors, doctors and social workers.

"Show a lot of feelings, whether the situation is good or bad. Always stay by their side; it's what they need most, and of course, the spiritual support," Alejandro said after a performance.

Dominique Alejandro, 20, knows what he is talking about. He is the only son of singer Jaclyn Alejandro and actress Rio Diaz, whose six-year battle with colon cancer had inspired many affluent Filipinos to seek God and find meaning in their suffering.

Hand for Life

Alejandro, who plays for the band Mojofly, was among six groups of young musicians who performed—for free—for Hand for Life, a fund-raising event of Bienvenida Oncology for the benefit of 53 cancer support groups all over the country.

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Cancer met De Guzman much

UA&P tops most expensive schools in Metro Manila

SOME schools remain almost out-haters to most by Filipinos, as can be seen from the list of some of the most expensive colleges and universities in Metro Manila in terms of the total tuition of undergraduate freshmen for the academic year 2005-2006.

Universities of Asia and the Pacific tops the list. Its cost per unit depends on the course, but according to its registrar's office, one unit costs P2,018 on the average. With usually 27 units in one term and with five terms in one academic year, a freshman has to shell out about P10,80,872 for the school year's tuition alone.

That figure is higher than the estimated annual expenses of a minimum-wage earner in Metro Manila. According to the Department of Labor and Employment, the new daily basic wage for the non-agricultural sector in Metro Manila will be pegged at P325, inclusive of the daily emergency cost of living allowance. If a minimum-wage earner works for 26 days in a month and 12 months in a year, he/she will earn income will be P101,400.

This is barely higher than the total tuition of second-placer De La Salle University-DLSU (Ongpin: P1,762.50) per unit-in-fee average, with a student usually taking 30 units in a term, for unlike most schools, DLSU is trimestral, resulting in a total tuition of up proximately P95,175.

Assumption College comes in third. Its cost per unit, P1,484, is about P500 lower than that of Ateneo de Manila University (P2,025.40). But according to its registrar's office, students in Assumption usually include 18 units, compared to AdMU's 24, totaling P84,240 this year. AdMU still charge freshmen about P71,922.40 this year.

Three-Spanish-run-Indo universities and other fees. UA&P's miscellaneous fees amount to P8,600 a semester or P17,233 in a year. DLSU charges P4,280 for the registration fee, student activities, graduation, medical, dental fee, laboratory fee, internet fee, insurance fee and ID validation fee (which is not included in the enrollment for the first term of the freshman year).

On the other hand, Polytechnic University of the Philippines charges only P75 for the registration fee, library fee, medical and dental fee, cultural fee, athletic fee and identification card. Meanwhile, University of the Philippines Diliman's miscellaneous fees amount to P915 a semester. PUP and UP Diliman are government schools.

PUP charges only P500 for tuition per semester having 21 units each. UP Diliman's annual tuition costs P10,800, with usually 18 units per semester.

The tuition money spent for a UA&P freshman taking 36 units this year can pay for this year's tuition of about 108 PUP freshmen, or about six UP Diliman freshmen, with each taking 36 units. Cyril L. Bonalbona, PDI Research

Some of the Most Expensive Colleges and Universities in Metro Manila

(In terms of number of units per undergraduate freshman, AY 2005-2006)

Rank	School	Cost per unit	Estimated tuition***
1	University of Asia and the Pacific	P2,018.00	P108,972.00
2	De La Salle University	P1,762.50	95,175.00
3	Assumption College	1,484.00	80,136.00
4	Ateneo de Manila University	2,025.40	72,877.40
5	Philippine Women's University	570.00	68,400.00
6	St. Scholastica's College	1,200.00	66,100.00
7	Far Eastern College	1,870.00	61,710.00
8	Mapua Institute of Technology	1,250.00	60,000.00
9	Mapua College	1,250.00	54,400.00
10	San Beda College	450.00	48,600.00
11	St. Paul College of Quezon City	1,350.00	48,600.00
12	San Sebastian College	700.00	42,000.00
13	AMA Computer University	700.00	42,000.00
14	Far Eastern University	670.00	38,800.00
15	College of Mount Saint Vincent, Manila	650.00	37,894.73
16	University of Santo Tomas	650.00	37,700.00
17	University of the East	765.00	35,190.00
18	Trinity College of Quezon City	745.00	33,525.00
19	College de San Juan de Letran	715.00	33,462.00
20	Systems of the Philippines	720.00	30,120.00

10 State-Run Public Universities

1	University of the Philippines, Diliman	P10,800.00	P10,800.00
2	Polytechnic University of the Philippines	915.00	915.00

* A semester year
** Computed by multiplying the cost per unit by 27 units (the number of units usually taken by a freshman) per term and by five terms in one academic year
*** Computed by adding the cost per unit (P1,762.50) times 27 units per term, and then multiplied by five terms, to the miscellaneous fees of P8,600 a semester or P17,233 a year

Notes:
The actual number of units taken in a term is assigned from 1 Caribbean to 30 in Assumption, Ateneo, and Saint Scholastica's.
Miscellaneous fees include P1,000 (P2,250, 1992) Cultural Activities and P800 Library Fee. The actual cost is assessed.

Sources: The schools' accounting, admissions, marketing communications, registrar's and treasurer's offices

METRO

EZ2 SUERTRES SIX DIGIT

6/42 Lucas/Vis-Min

P21,628,389.30

Manila 'junks' junk food for kids

By Tina G. Santos

FOR SEVERAL years now, Manila preschoolers have been getting—and enjoying—nutritious meals for free that include vitamin-rich green, leafy vegetables like kangkong, kamote tops, alugbati, malunggay and pechay.

Sounds like a parent's dream come true, huh?

City officials have found a way to overcome the "bitter" pill, so to speak, and encourage kids, who usually would rather go for junk food, to eat their veggies.

Wanting the city's kids to be healthy and smart, Manila's local officials implemented "Busugan Ang Asenso," a supplemental feeding program, in 2003.

"This is one way of supplementing the nutritious requirements of children, especially those who come from poor families," Mayor Lito Atienza said this morning. "In making Manila a world-class city, we must keep our children healthy. We have to make sure young Manileños are getting the proper nutrition."

The supplemental feeding program, organized by Manila's Department of Social Welfare to help boost the mental and physical development of kids through adequate nutrition, benefits some 17,000 students in the city's 379 day care centers, 26 Lot-ang Bata[illegible] city health officer, said.

Beyond malnutrition

The city's nutrition program has even gone beyond fighting malnutrition and food insecurity.

"The project has also contributed to the empowerment of poor women. It convinces women's active participation in nutrition-building by educating safe, nutritious food and a healthy environment for their families and communities," Atienza said.

Jenina Tabo, 31, volunteer barangay health worker from San Andres, said money she earned from the nutrition program helped augment the family income.

"Times are really hard these days, you have to find other means to earn," said Tabo, a resident of the area, adding she usually can always rely on her husband's meager salary as a street sweeper.

Tabo, along with several other housewives in her community, was paid for the vegetables from her backyard that were used in the nutrition program.

Atienza said they encouraged poor families to plant even in pots or small containers for extra income. She added that the program also helped the city's garbage recycling efforts.

"These vegetables can be planted in containers. It usually compost and using kitchen wastes and garden soil. That easing another city problem concerning waste management," Sanchez said.

Tabo said she earned an average of P400 a month for her harvest, which she said is the city government through the Kabuhayan ng Maynila, a non-government organization.

PHOTO BY A.A.I.

Gang making fake coffee, soap busted

By Tina G. Santos

DOES your coffee taste bad? It may be fake.

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has dismantled a counterfeiting ring run by Chinese nationals in Dumbuanga City.

Lawyer Jose Justo Paz, chief of the NBI Intellectual Property Rights Division (IPRD), said the syndicate manufactured fake coffee and toiletry products of known brands.

Yap said the raid on the group's warehouse in Bonpartis Compound, Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City led to the arrest of three suspects.

The NBI identified the suspects as Huang Jiangtian, with aliases Harry Ee and Harry Wee; Huang Shaoxian, alias Suarez Uy; and Li Zhongsheng, all of Gen. Vicente Alvarez, Zamboanga City.

Armed with search warrants issued by Manila Regional Trial Court Executive Judge Antonio Eugenio Jr. and Zamboanga RTC Judge Peter Ramos, the NBI agents raided the suspects' bar and grind counterfeit Nescafé coffee products, Close-Up toothpaste and Tide all-purpose detergent worth some P1.5 million.

The raid came after Nestlé Phils. Inc., Procter and Gamble Phils. and Unilever Phils., the legitimate manufacturers of Nescafé, Close-Up and Tide, complained of the proliferation of fake brand goods.

Yap said charges had been filed against the suspects for violating the Intellectual Property Code.

Meanwhile, NBI agents seized some P500,000 worth of fake Sosa Free spread from some leading supermarkets in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

Yap said the dealers of Peter Foods Inc., the legitimate maker of the spread, noticed lower sales in recent months, prompting them to seek the help of the NBI.

NBI products collected samples of the spread, which they bought from the supermarkets, and found that many of these were fake.

"The unexplained chemical differences in the labels of the original and the fake goods," Yap said.

He added that the owners and proprietors of the supermarkets may be charged for violating the Intellectual Property Code and trademark infringement.

Courtroom thief answers to street justice

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE TIMELY intervention of policemen saved the life of a theft suspect who allegedly stole the wallet of a courtroom employee at the Caloocan City Hall of Justice on Friday.

Police, led by Senior Insp. Rodrigo Soriano, stopped a mob from meting out street justice on Erwin Alfonso, 26, who ended up black and blue from injuries inflicted by a mob.

According to the police, Alfonso, of 142 Bitanzos Street, Caloocan City and a member of the "Bahala Na Gang," went into the office of the Regional Trial Court Branch 122 at about 3 p.m. and took the wallet of Roberto Carpio, the branch stenographer.

However, Carpio saw him and shouted for help as the suspect ran out of the office and onto the street.

Angry Hall of Justice employees and bystanders ran after Alfonso whom they caught two streets away.

The mob then ganged up on him until police from the nearby City Hall detachment arrived to intervene.

Alfonso, whose police said had previously spent two years in jail for theft, yielded Carpio's wallet.

Police said employees were furious because many of them had been victims of previous thefts at the Hall of Justice.

Sunday BIZ

E-mail: pi_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor: Margie Quiniquin-Reyes

Father knows best

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

LIKE any teenager, Jose Rene D. Almendras was wanted to drive his own car.

His father, however, would not have his son take any one of the family's sedans for a spin, which would have been the easy thing to do.

Instead, his father prompted asked one of his employees to teach the 14-year-old to drive a tractor.

Rene drove that farm tractor for the rest of the summer, earning him some pocket money and his first lessons on the value of an honest day's work.

This was just one of the ways by which Rene's father instilled in him the valuable work ethic that would eventually take Rene to the presidency of Cebu Holdings Inc., the holding company of Ayala Land Inc.'s real estate investments in the Queen City of the South.

Rene's father taught him another valuable lesson when he went back to Cebu after completing his studies at the Ateneo de Manila University, where he earned a degree in Business Management.

No cushy job

Instead of giving him a cushy job as a new air-conditioned office, Rene was assigned to work in one of his father's rural mining claims in the remote mountains of Danao, Cebu.

He would drive up every Monday, then go back down on Saturday on Fridays. In between, he worked with the crew and was responsible for the entire mining operations.

Rene held that job for a year, learning along the way how to deal with people from all walks of life, and to prepare for any possible emergency which, in the mining industry, lurks just around the corner.

He could have chosen to stay with the family business and just wait for a top executive position to fall on his lap.

But Rene is his father's son, after all, and he wanted to prove his worth.

Thus, he moved to Manila where he believed the challenge lay.

"It broke (my father's) heart, because it was his dream to give one business to each child," Almendras tells Inquirer. "But I already told him that I would only work with him for a year."

Proving his worth

When that year was up, he sent out applications to companies in Manila, and he was thrilled when he was hired as a management trainee of the defunct Citytrust Banking Corp. in 1992.

"I was happy because I got the job on my own merit, not because I was my father's son," Almendras says.

He passed his exams, and, a year later, he was named officer of the bank. At 24, he was promoted to assistant manager.

The year 1993 saw Almendras going back to Cebu, where Citibank needed somebody to take care of operations in the Visayas.

First Job

It was a job that kept Almendras there under considerable stress, even if he relished the daunting challenge of facing things up to his bosses' promises.

The stress, late nights, and lifestyle of constantly living on the go, however, have his chances of having a family.

He got married in 1993, and the doctor told he and his wife would not have a baby unless he slowed down and adopted a less stressful lifestyle.

"And so, just a few weeks after I was promoted assistant vice president, I tendered my resignation," Almendras says.

And very humbly, he went back to his father to rejoin the family corporations.

Lessons learned

He was rewarded for his sacrifice in 1995 when his wife gave birth to his first child.

Coincidentally just two weeks before his wife was due to give birth, he got an invitation to rejoin the Citibank group.

The prospect of rejoining the banking world got his adrenaline pumping. He jumped on the chance and returned to Citytrust from 1995 to 1997, when it was acquired by the Bank of the Philippine Islands.

He was part of the merger team, and he was handling his real estate duties.

When that task was done, he figured it was time to move on, hoping to use the lessons he learned while working with a professional, multinational corporation.

"(It) taught me all about discipline, to think about systems, and to be aware that there is always a better way of doing things, no matter how well the present system works," Almendras says.

It was also in the Citibank group where he appreciated the value of always being attuned to the changing needs of the consumers, to go ahead of competitors.

There was a case, for instance, when the bank proudly launched a system, allowing Citibank's callers to process client's requests quickly and efficiently.

The bank callers were so good at their jobs, however, that they failed to even look up and smile at the bank's clients.

This upset the clients, which made Almendras find the team realize that the clients were not so much after the speed, as calls to their branches were processed, but the quality of the service that they receive.

That system was quickly changed and Citibank maintained a favorable among clients, thanks to the quick response to the customers' needs.

He pursues to his former boss, Jerry Ritzen, who was president of Globe Telecom Inc., as one of his mentors.

"I learned a lot from him," Almendras says of Ritzen. "We worked on a lot of projects together at Citibank."

Conquering his fears

Happy as he was working with the Ayala group, Almendras felt he ought to try a different adjusting as a family-run corporation after working on long for a multinational company.

He accepted his boss and joined the Cebu-based Ayala group in 1997 as treasurer of one of the country's biggest and most diverse conglomerates.

Almendras was just getting his feet wet in the Ayala group when the Asian currency crisis swept the region in 1997, affecting all companies, the Ayala group included.

As treasurer, he had the unenviable duty of weathering the storm brought about by the crisis. But he made it, and the Ayala group

LIKE FROM Edmundo, Rene Almendras can carry a tune.

CEBU Holdings Inc. president Rene Almendras today

Key to real success: 'Bulletproof integrity'

"Integrity Is All You've Got"
by Karl Eller
AMACOM—HC, 2005

By Dean M. Villano
Contributor

WITHOUT meaning to, this book is as timely as the headlines in print and broadcast media this or that part of the world.

It can refer, say, to the political and ethical dilemma our head of state has been thrown into—to speak or not to speak about nine-tapped rotors. And to speak or not to speak the truth about her kin's involvement in "punting"—an illegal numbers game.

From this book, here's a quote that may show her the light at the end of a dark tunnel. It begins with a question: "What should you do when your reputation takes a major hit?"

EXECUTIVE READ

Answer: "Don't hide, deny, dissemble or fake the truth. Never all, don't lie. Face the facts. Speak immediately and forcibly. Nothing disarms your critics as being totally candid and quickly correcting whatever went wrong."

The author says it simply on another page: "Integrity shows in consistency—in how you behave when you're right and wrong. How you behave."

This book is entitled, "Integrity Is All You've Got," and yes it is true not to be an insightful guide for entrepreneurs—and leaders—about sailing, assuming hazards, saying yes when harming, opportunity and serving, finding partnerships, the joy of giving...and, of course, income because (not in spite of) integrity.

Karl Eller, a billionaire who made good in the billboards business, tells his story with detailed candor. You sit up and listen, because the insights come from someone who, in his words, has his "follies, takeoffs, crashes, comebacks and final redirecting."

It is one thing to talk about integrity or running it out—but it's another to live a life of complete honesty.

The author also shows a school of management was tainted, has lived integrity first—and more is talking about it.

In other words, unlike many people we know, he has relatively few gaps between saying he practices it and practicing it.

Speaking of trust. Like a locomotive "Your handshake motivates the toughest contract drawn up by the finest lawyer. It is as sworn."

"You have invested long enough to realize that integrity is key to business life and success. Integrity is what allows you and me to trust each other. Without it, we begin suspecting and then hearing each other, and soon bad things happen."

Written on a prominent wall at the Eller College of Management is a quote from the author:

"Without integrity, motivation is dangerous; without motivation, capacity is impotent; without capacity, understanding is limited; without understanding, knowledge is meaningless; without knowledge, experience is blind."

The book features that "the paternity of MBA academics seems to be forming a thousand ways to kill your competitors, rather than the one true way to really succeed - develop bulletproof integrity."

At the hours from, this seems to be just the MBA alma mater, the Asian Institute of Management, has either in its curriculum—or with other major graduate business schools.

While the author devotes an entire discussion titled "Integrity is your only collateral," he dishes out words of wisdom on succeeding as an entrepreneur, and yet still peppered with ideas on finding balance and running your business.

For salesmen, he has a brilliant one-liner: "Less selling and sell what you love."

For those having a problem with optimism, he quotes Winston Churchill: "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."

And idea starters, the quote is graphic: "Minds are like parachutes; they work only when open."

He has advice for CEOs who think they can take over anyone's company, even in a different industry ...and erroneously think they succeeded. "If you're going to take over a business, you have to arrive with a real understanding of what makes it work."

"I learned that knows the hard way," he says—and his arduous homebuilding career taken by last billions of dollars because of disastrous decisions.

What about the recurring staple of entrepreneurs—work? Quoting his friend, Mort Feinberg, he writes: "You need to keep running, so that when the train comes by you're ready to jump on. If you keep missing the train, you have no one but yourself to blame."

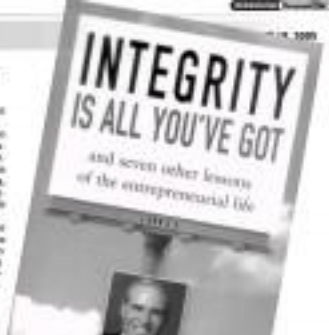
This book is for rising managers—and for CEOs who must still run their businesses and are daily confronted with ethical dilemmas.

The book also throws in nuggets of wisdom on what makes business a rolling and an exciting life's work.

After giving us the impression that everything in business is complicated, using all his working hours thinking and concluding business deals, he dishes out a life-saving advice. He asks: "How do you keep failure from wrecking your life?"

His answer could prevent this serious bout with depression: "Business is only part of life, and not the most important. Your family, your friends, role as citizen of your community and service—these are what counts."

After reading this book, to remember the words in Olivia Newton-John's famous quote: "What's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never goes back to its original dimension." (dmvillano@yahoo.com)



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CEBU Holdings Inc.'s Cebu Business Park.

THE AYALA Center Cebu hopes to innovate to keep in step with customers' changing tastes

Father knows best

Rosemarie M.

executed from the crisis relatively unscathed.

And just when he thought his banking days were behind him, he was tasked by the Ayalas group to head City Savings Bank and grow its portfolio.

It eventually became one of the biggest in Cebu.

"If the CEO group taught me about systems, Mactan taught me about heart, that one overarching is about business," Almeda says.

There, it was such a heavy hour that he left the Ayala group in 2001 to take on his latest challenge, which was to head Cebu Holdings Inc.

"Jon and Bobby Ayala's were more than my bosses, we have remained very good friends," Almeda says. "It was after a nice and long conversation with them when I told I was leaving. They just said that joining the Ayala group would be good for me and good for Cebu."

He says he must have left a job he enjoyed because the youth in him wanted to try something new, to challenge other new talents.

And it has he did in his new industry of real estate.

From strength to strength

Since he took over, Cebu Holdings' income has been on an upward trend. From P1.4 billion in 2001, it grew to P2.8 billion in 2002, some this year surpassing last year's by 34 percent, with consolidated income reaching P3.8 billion.

The Ayala Center Cebu, which is one of the biggest acquisitions of Cebu Holdings, was named Most Outstanding Shopping Mall during the Metro Cebu awards of the Philippine Marketing Association, and Cebu Holdings Inc. itself was named best real estate company in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Going from strength to strength is one thing that gets Almeda's creative juices flowing.

"I get tremendous satisfaction in resolving conflicts," he says. "We have no choice because the reality is that competition will always be there. We cannot afford to stop innovating. The day we stop doing that is the day we close ... customers' standards are always going up."

Doing things right

Innovating and keeping ahead of competition also means doing business the right way which is something that the Zobel family has always stressed.

"The Zobels always emphasize doing things right, and doing the right thing, even if it is not convenient ... even if it takes longer (or costs more)," he says. "They also emphasize that we have a responsibility to the community, which is also something that the Ayala group believes."

Almeda has, however, says that despite having learned a lot from mentors and bosses throughout his career, he still turns to his brother's words when he needs inspiration.

"He woke up at 5 every morning looking forward to work. He always said that the worst day is an unproductive day," he says.

Almeda has, thankfully, has no plans yet of being unproductive.

Lilet Chele Bacal-Forrosa,
daughter of Conrado Lorma Bacal
Legendino
Lin Zulueta, son of Salvador Grecial Zulueta
Linda Bolilla, daughter of Ricardo de la Cruz Bolilla

Unconventional fathers

Hand that rocks the cradle may no longer be a woman's

By Bella V. Rosales

SOCIETY has clearly defined the roles of husband and wives. By tradition, husbands are the providers or "haligi ng tahanan" while the wives are the homemakers or "ilaw ng tahanan."

However, research indicates roles have been gradually reversed starting in the 1990s. More women are pursuing careers outside the home, taking leadership positions in the corporate world and becoming the family's breadwinners. On the other hand, more men are staying home to run the household.

An AC Nielsen quarterly Class/Mar survey of 1,000 urban households nationwide reports the reversal of roles was triggered by economic and financial factors.

The marketing firm found that a big percentage of male homemakers was in Luzon, with 17 percent. Metro Manila had 11 percent, the Visayas, 13 percent, and Mindanao, 7 percent.

Permanent

Data showed that 69 percent of men (aged 30-49) had been "housebound" for over five years, indicating that "housebanding" was a permanent, rather than temporary arrangement.

About seven-eighths percent of male householders in Class B were employees, according to Nobby Magpantay, executive director of AC Nielsen.

The survey found the "housebounds" had marketable skills and academic credentials that would have allowed them to find employment outside the home but they chose instead to stay home.

AC Nielsen divided the male homemakers into three major groups.

Choice homemakers were men who had no choice but to stay home due to circumstances. Some 40 percent of them were in Metro Manila.

The group was subdivided into the jobseekers, single, never-married males who lived alone, are usually from the provinces, the second does singles, males separated or widowed who had not remarried and had assumed the role of homemakers out of necessity and by default; the Supergays, males whose wives were diverse informal, recorded a lot of educated elsewhere because of their jobs), and the (spouse-aided) Breadwinds, married males whose spouses were unable to discharge their housewifely duties effectively due some matrix illness, poor health or "lack of talent" in the domestic arts, among others).

Preference

The second major group was the Choice "Housebands" or men who preferred to act as homemakers. About 41 percent of respondents belonged to this category.

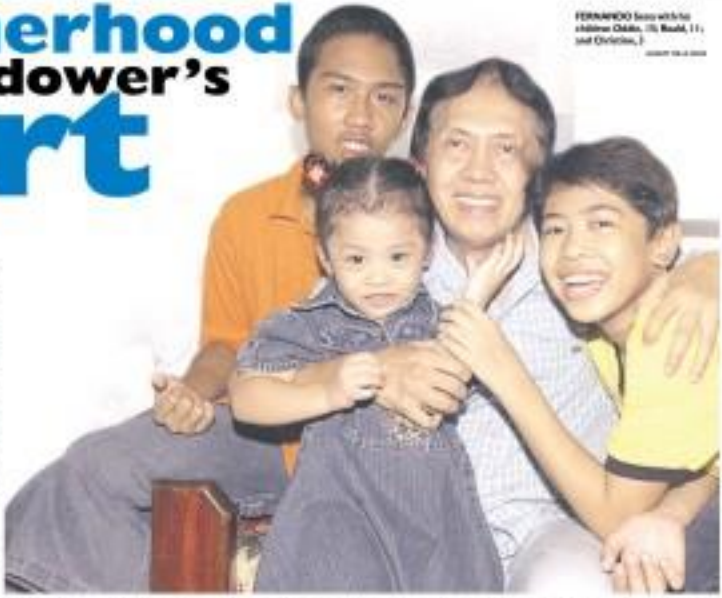
Under this group were: The Kidmakers, parent-oriented males living with the rest of the family; the Versatiles, married males with flexible working hours compared to their working wives (they may be in sales or engaged in home-based income-generating enterprises such as retailing, taxi and passenger jeepney franchising); the Vicarious-es, married males who took over the housemaking task from their working wives because they were jobless, were between jobs, retired, or could not work because of health problems or disability or they made home-making their vocation.

The third group was the Circumstances Hubbies, accounting for 11 percent of household respondents. These were married males with partners who could not really act as homemakers. However, these men had their own lofty ideas about running the household and at high standards. They took over the management of the home to ensure those standards were met and kept.

Given a list of 16 housemaking tasks, most respondents mentioned as obviously male territory as extending their DLI with little involvement from anyone else—doing simple home repairs. They also handled the budget though, in some instances, this responsibility was shared primarily with the wife.

The most heavy involvement of "housebands" related to food, with 71 percent planning the menu and 57 percent doing the cooking. "Housebands" were also actively involved in parenting.

Fatherhood as a widower's art



FERNANDO Sena with his children Oddie, 15; Roald, 11; and Christine, 3

By Rowena C. Borges,
daughter of Robert Sr. Encarnita Borges

FATHERHOOD is perhaps any man's biggest challenge. But when one marries and starts to have children a bit late, the challenge is magnified.

Painter Fernando "Nanding" Sena was 39 when he married Nancy Cunsang who was 34. Before that, Sena had been preoccupied with art-making and teaching. He had thought that marriage could wait.

Then Nanding met Nancy in an all-women exhibit which he organized in 1988 at City Gallery. One of the participants was Mirchie Aguilar, a professor of the UP College of Fine Arts, who took along with her a friend, Nancy, a professor at the UP College of Arts and Letters. Nancy caught Sena's eye. After two years, he proposed to her.

Within a year of their marriage, Nancy became pregnant with Rashon, who only lived for five days. The following year, Nancy gave birth to Oddie. In 1993, she gave birth to Roald.

Much later, Nancy was diagnosed with breast cancer. She died in 1998.

Sena carried himself bravely. He did not cry when Nancy was buried at the Philippine Memorial Hospital. But after her burial, he was overwhelmed with grief and sadness.

Dark times

A widower at 50 with two young kids, Nanding began to suffer from depression. He turned to the Bible for solace and guidance. Still, a desire alleviate the pain and loneliness, so he went to a psychiatrist at the Veterans Memorial Hospital.

But during those dark times, Nanding never abandoned his passion for painting. He even came up with an exhibit on rape. "Painting served as my therapy even when my first child died. I wanted to be productive. After nine months of being depressed, my sleeping pattern's become normal again."

Nanding explained to Oddie and Roald their mother's death. To remind them of their mother's love, Nanding displayed Nancy's photos in the living room and the children's rooms.

Both Oddie and Roald were close to their mommy, Sena said. Oddie easily adjusted to her absence but Roald did not. He needed to stop going to school for one year.

Artist-teacher Fernando Sena finds late parenthood as inspiring as the Muses

On the day of his entrance exam at the University of the Philippines Integrated School, Roald refused to take the test unless his father went inside with him. Sena explained Roald obviously missed his mother. In order to make up for the one year his son was out of school, Sena gave him an interim.

Second chance

In 1999, Sena met Inez Tuason, an elementary school teacher in Cubao and a native of his former maid. When Inez visited her sister, Nanding asked her to stay in their house and tutor Roald, who, at that time, was having a hard time with his lessons.

Sena became fond of Inez, especially after she helped Roald achieve higher grades in school. Fondness turned into love eventually.

After two years, they got married. But before taking the plunge again, Sena talked to his sons. The two gave their approval with a smile," he said.

Then in 2002, Inez, who was 36 at that time, gave birth to Christine. During her stay in the hospital, one of the staff teased her and Sena, who was 54 at that time. "She's done dancing (sabog grandmama)," the nurse recalled.

But the taunting didn't end there. When Sena takes Christine out for a stroll, people often mistake her for his grandaughter.

When Inez used to pick up Ester from Manila Elementary School in Quezon City, her co-moms would shout, "Ma'am, tumalon na ang (your mayor" Other than Sena, though Inez takes all the ensuing in stride, Sena takes to just wait for his wife at a nearby restaurant.

Inez likes to have another child, but Sena is reluctant because he finds it difficult to raise sons of children, especially Christine, who's only three. "Maybe after a few more years," he said.

Inspiration

Nanding said his art endeavor inspire him to become a responsible father. "Madaming nasasaktan (many get hurt) because as I see my here color a good interest and passion."

Oddie, who's now 15, and Roald, now 11, accompany Nanding to his painting classes during summer vacation. Oddie assists him in other his preparing the materials he uses in teaching. Roald, on the other hand, sells art materials to students.

On Saturdays, they attend Mass and dine out afterward. Every October, Nanding gives art lessons at the Baguio convention of the Children's Museum and Library Inc. He brings the whole family along with him, including his 88-year-old mother-and-he household.

Father-hood has indeed transformed Sena. He master how many accolades are heaped upon him, Sena said nothing compared to being a parent.

"Nothing matters more than the well-being of my children and making them proud. While I only enjoy my career as painter and teacher, spending time at home and being family is very hour," Sena said.

E-mail the author at rborges@inquirer.com.ph

Twice the father

By Constantino C. Tejero,
son of Neyibo Gonzalez Tejero

I HAVE a philosophy of rearing children, which is the way also of my Christian formation," says Jimmy Cengson, 51, a consultant in the Central Bank of the Philippines and professor at De La Salle University.

JIMMY Cengson with daughter Jennifer Anne and son Jonathon Paul

He explains the four stages in the development of personhood. "First, a person must know how to appreciate himself, other people, events and things. Then, he is genuine with people.

"Second, when he is able to say 'Thank you.' That's gratitude. Third, he is able to say, 'Sorry' during may pagkukulang ka, or when you have inflicted pain on others, you must know how to say 'Sorry.' Fourth is the ability to forgive. That's the height of Christian maturity."

And that, says Cengson, is essentially how he raises his kids. He knows values of his upside. He is a committed priest.

With a Ph.D in Counseling Psychology, Cengson teaches Ethics, Human Behavior in Organization, and Organizational Development and Change at the DLSU Graduate School, as well as psychology subjects in its College of Education. He often appears on television talk shows to speak on relationships and current affairs on the priesthood.

Cengson is a coordinator of Word Flesh, a group of 15 married priests. The group is part of the Instauration of Philippine Catholic Married Priests, which is being a priest, of course, but theologically prepared him for fatherhood.

He has three kids: Jennifer Anne, 15, is fourth-year high school at CB Montessori; Jonathan Paul, 14, is Grade 8 at Holy Angel Montessori; and Jeanna Mae, 6.

"I am proud of being a family man," he says. "My kids are very much aware of the situation, and they're proud of me. Their classmates identify me as a psychologist, a professor, a married priest—nothing strained. In fact, there is positive esteem... You have to live a role model, because you have direct influence on their lives."

Paternal lore

A diocesan priest and Boholano, Cengson was professor and prefect of discipline of Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Tagbilaran City for five years in the 1980s. Then he served for three years as chaplain of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center at North Avenue, Quezon City.

It was when he served for three years as pastor-in-charge priest in the parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Cubao that he met his future wife, Consuelo Dizi.

A parishioner, Coni was a flight attendant in an international airline, with a background in commercial and finances. She was in her early 20s, he in his early 30s. He got a canonical dispensation to marry her.

On becoming a family man, Cengson jokingly admits: "I psychologically prepared myself for that. I really asked myself if I'd be capable of a long-term relationship. I was sure of what I wanted. I was prepared for all the negative reactions from the community."

The way he speaks of their three children is infectious. It is a kind of rapture manifest in the face and voice that one associates with religious fervor, blind faith, superstition.

"My children are loving," he says. "We're raised them so that none becomes rebellious to the extent that between permissive and rigid, we're permissive. Responsible ang mga anak ko, e. They feel free to experiment without fear."

What if something goes wrong with any of them through their formative years? How would he cope?

"Practice and things will capsize them to true," he gently says. "You become either a victim or a tormentor. How do I cope? By providing them self-esteem. I have trust in my kids that with it they can face anything.

"But if it happens, anyway, if one of them becomes a drug addict or criminal, I'll give more attention to it...kaka may pagkukulang ako."

Family crisis

For now, most of the attention the family gives to the youngest, Justice Mae. The six-year-old has a rare medical condition called Aicardi Syndrome, an inborn brain injury characterized by epileptic seizures and progressive mass. Cengson says there are only some 500 reported cases worldwide, and the disease has been known for only few years.

In April, his daughters were taken to the intensive care unit, where she stayed for nearly two months. Now she's breathing through a surgical incision in her neck, and fed with liquified food through a tube in her stomach. Her mother and two nurses take turns attending to her 24 hours a day.

"In her first two years, it was a family crisis talaga," says the father. "Now it's natural na lang. We've come to appreciate more our role as parents. Why did God give us this child? Maybe because we're capable of providing for her and attending to her. The more we can do to give her a meaningful existence."

Of this golden haired girl with the delicate features, he exclaims: "She's extremely beautiful! Hindi ko ma-maw kung sanay anywhere tanggalong. Ondin ang gusto! An angel has descended, and I'm just the receiving line."

As is natural with the truly spiritual, "Ja-ther" Cengson turns clear into grace.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday LIFESTYLE

Text us your feedback:

DH Edward Phallin, hand-woven pina silk barong with flat pleats. Like the other featured fathers in this story, his barong was made by Silk Couture.

DH Tim Buchanan, jade-green handwoven silk barong with silk blazon appliqué

DH Dennis Valdes, black ramie linen barong with copper applique and silk embroidered cuffs

DH Douglas Ranoa, white handwoven silk barong with silk blazon appliqué

DH Ed Delgado, ecru handwoven silk barong with ethnic-inspired raffia appliqué

All for the family

Five successful dads talk about what it means to raise their kids and nurture the family

Text by Alex Y. Vergara,
with a report from Jo Ann Maglipon
Photos by Chito Pedro

THE DEMANDS of their work often require these dads to spend long hours outside their homes or go on occasional trips abroad. Despite their killer schedules, however, they make it a point to find ways of spending quality time with their families.

Family of swimmers

Dennis Valdes, EVP of FEP Printing and an avid diver like wife Tessa, has begun introducing nine-year-old son Dylan to scuba diving. Dubbed as the bubble maker, the brothers are content to just goof here for the real thing once he's big enough to fit into a wet suit.

Younger daughter Annika, 7, can also take up the sport someday if she wishes. Thanks to her sea- and sun-worshipping parents, the girl is also adept at swimming. It looks like youngest daughter Gemma, who's barely a month old (pictured here), also will "make it" to Greece this trip but next year's Olympics, to instead to enjoy the waves like her older siblings.

"Kids grow up so fast," says Dennis. "You really have to be mindful of spending enough time with them. In the case of Brian, who's big enough to live by himself, I can't plan on a small one at least once a week so he will know how he is."

Brian, the eldest son, is studying in the United States. Dennis is planning to take him kayaking in Cagayan once the rainy season is over.

Dennis had a close call early this year when, on a trip to India, the helicopter he was riding in crashed. But that unfortunate incident had one positive result: It was able to spend more time with his two younger children.

"It was like a forced vacation for me, as I could hardly move," says Dennis, who had to lie on his back most of the time during the first few weeks after the accident. "The children would often spend the time with me downstairs in my makeshift bedroom and we'd spend hours talking."

Recent project

In the case of architect Douglas Ranoa, work sometimes doubles as playtime, as he and wife Carla sometimes take Jess, 11, and Theo, 8, for leisurely strolls at the area by American Cemetery.

"The cemetery's restoration was one of the most recent projects I did," he explains. "If time allows, the family and I go to Pasay Plaza on weekends for adventure regularly in the village park."

TITO, with (clockwise) Lito, Rustico and Dimmit, wears a light-blue-pure linen barong with handwoven appliques in burgundy and dove blue

DENNIS, with son Tyrone, wears a brown handwoven silk barong with embroidery and beadwork.

All for the family

Keeping the family a top priority is certainly one value these five busy, successful fathers all have in common

Pretongue C2

For nearly a decade, the couple had grown used to dealing with one child, until Tyler "unexpectedly" came along soon after the family came home from a trip to Disneyland. Their expanding, four-dozen-required home was never the same again.

"We wanted to call him Goofy, but decided against it at the last minute," says Douglas in jest.

Since Tyler was a sickly premature baby, his parents were constantly taking him in and out of the hospital soon after he was born. He nearly died when one of his lungs burst while doctors were trying to revive him.

Today, there's not a trace of those early struggles on Tyler. The boy with a mischief face and easy smile is in the pink of health.

Disneyland's fun seemed out to be Geneland's gain, as Tyler is proving to be an amazing mimic of Elvis Presley—down to the bent leg and swinging hips. Credit (or blame) should go to the family driver, a diehard fan of the King, who plays CDs and DVDs of the late singer in every turn.

"I used to be just as and our daughter," Douglas recalls fondly. "Look at her. She's almost a teenager now. I can't carry her anymore."

Like what he does with Sara, Douglas plays to take Tyler with him during informal meetings with friends and clients in the future. Apart from teaching him how to behave and bless, he believes such occasions put them in the right "social context."

Weekends for family

Speaking of social context, French couple Edouard and Sorina Manlhi have become used to having their three blond kids (Theophile, 6, Ariane, 4, and Annabelle, 2½), speaking in English (and English) with an unmistakable Filipino accent.

When we ask little Arabelle, for instance, how they are spending their Saturday afternoon, she matter-of-factly replies, "We're going to the pool, papa!"

After several months of going to the mall with her two older brothers, the girl has already memorized the family's weekend routine down pat. This time they're watching the last two episodes of "Star Wars." There are also days when they go for a swim at an exclusive sports club.

"If we have the time," says Edouard, a businessman who owns and manages a security printing company that deals with the Central Bank, "we also spend it either in Batangas or Bilaibon. As much as possible, I spend my weekends with the family."

The doesn't mean that Edouard is an absentee father during the rest of the week. If his schedule allows, he tries to drop by to have dinner at home with the family before attending to his after-an meetings.

Flexible hours

Tito Pastrongas, a freelance financial advisor, also relishes the flexible hours his job allows. He recently came from a quick business trip in New York that didn't last beyond five days.

"I don't want to get back home, as I try to do everything as fast as possible," says the father of four boys (three—Daniel, 4, Andre, 2, and Luis, 1—are still per saturdays, while Kenji is already 17).

He and his wife Rhett often go to Nagaray with the three boys for a swim. But the real action happens in Macau, where the family occasionally spends their weekends, away from the bustling Manila. Despite the usual hassles associated with going out of town, the Pastrongas wouldn't have it any other way.

"It's difficult to manage boys," says Tito. "In fact, you don't manage them. They manage you."

Second-time parents

Like Tito, Ed Delgado, CEO and president of Unilever Inc., and wife Margarita have had some practice raising children long before Camille, 11, and Andrei, 7, were born. How come?

The couple has been there and done that before, raising Paolo, 25, and Clarissa, 18. Their first set of children is currently based abroad, while their second one is living with them in Manila.

"My biggest fear [when the second set came] was screwing a father and non day to be kind-and comparing with their half-brother/sister," says Ed. "So far, they haven't become me yet."

Indeed, being competitive is one trait Ed inculcated early on among his kids. During Paolo and Clarissa's time, he enrolled them in swim classes. This time Camille and Andrei are into badminton. Ed is also a self-confessed shooting blasted weapons stalled public treadmill.

As a member of the board of the Ateneo Sisters of the Philippines, Ed has spent the weekend with both his two sons on different occasions, camping and kayaking in the outdoors. At home are his two young ones are old enough, he plans to teach them how to ride the motorcycle, like his dad before to his two older children.

"I'm doing with them everything I used to do with Paolo," says the doting father. "The only problem is I'm not getting any younger. I have to exert more effort now to do the things I used to do with your 15 years ago."

Ateneo are always ideal opportunities to bond in the Delgado home. It's the time of day when family members get to sit down at the table to talk and try to catch up on each other's day.

"My two elder children tend to disagree," says Ed, "but I'm still in control as I was when it comes to disciplining my two younger children. My wife and I have always put an emphasis on values."

Keeping the family a top priority is certainly one value Ed Delgado has in common with former Golden Douglas Ramsay, Edouard Manlhi and TITO Pastrongas.

E-mail the author at mvergara@inquirer.com.ph.

EDOUARD, with kids Arabelle, Eliot and Theophile, wears a ramie linen barong in indigo with red hand-stitching

ED, with kids Andrei and Camille, wears a pale yellow ramie linen barong with geometric appliqué made of t-rolls.

SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

Cashing in on Korea

Text and photos by Rowena C. Burgos

OF THE TOP 10 countries with the most number of visitors to the Philippines, Korea, Japan and Greater China are the biggest markets. While arrivals from the United States are ranked number one, the figure, however, largely comprises Filipinos now holding foreign passports, Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano said in a travel trade presentation and media conference held at Lotte Hotel in Seoul, South

AT THE PHILIPPINE presser held at Lotte Hotel in Seoul, South Korea. From left: PAL Korea president Kim Ki Tae; Tourism Sec. Joseph Durano; Ambassador Aladdin Villaroma; and regional manager of Asia Pacific Department and head of Bank Korea Markets Bank—Korea

Cashing in on Korea

This Asian country has dislodged Japan as the second biggest source market of tourist arrivals to the Philippines after the US

From page 66

Korea.

The activity was part of the recent 38th Korea World Travel Fair (Kotfa), which took place at the Convention and Exhibition Center (COEX) in Seoul. Kotfa is the leading international travel show in Korea. In 2004, it was attended by 162 exhibitors from all over the world and attracted 86,702 visitors.

A survey of Philippine Air Lanes and Boipeng Marketing shows our country had 130,744 tourist arrivals from the ROK in January to March 2005. This is followed by Korea with 111,891 for the same period; Japan, 104,802; Greater China, 85,889; and Australia, 29,722. Compared to last year's source arrivals, from Korea 390,2808, the first three months of this year reflected a growth rate of 16.7 percent.

"Korea is now fast catching up, slowly leaping Japan as the second biggest source market of tourist arrivals to the Philippines," Durano said. "Since 1996, the growth rate of tourist arrivals in our country has been constantly fluctuating. However, 2004 was a good year for us. We had a total of 2.339 million arrivals with a growth rate of 19.1 percent from 1.000 We expect to welcome 3 million tourists in 2010."

He added that tourism receipts reached to a higher of $1.76 billion last year, a growth rate of 21.4 percent from 2003. The targeted 3 million visitors in 2010 is expected to generate $4.19 billion in tourism receipts.

Vigorous campaign

According to Marieon Ilivan, head of the Department of Tourism's Team Korea, Kotfa's organizers chose Durano as this year's guest of honor because of his "vigorous tourism campaign in Korea."

A television commercial focusing on the "More Than the Usual Warmth, Feel the Philippines" campaign was aired from March to May on cable channels such as Mnet, MBC, KBS, OCN, Super Action and FTN. Print ads also appeared in several publications. A new TV commercial and a number of print ads on various Philippine festivals are currently running until August. A five-minute audio-visual presentation on Cebuano, Manila showcases the diversity of Philippine tourist products and services, will also be aired on Korean channels.

In March and April this year, DOT joined Korea Kindred Star and Total Diego Tokyo, where the Philippines won the Best Promotion Award.

Durano's invitational program resulted in a 30-page feature on the Philippines and its attractions in All Road Magazine. Song Lick Productions recently visited our country's islands "Meet a Global Village," a documentary on destinations which will be aired in July at present, Gomaksa Productions is in the Philippines to cover the "Best Beaches in the World" documentary.

Recently, I Plus Media Productions also did a location shoot for two episodes of its drama series "Beautiful Night." The is now airing in Korea and will also be shown in Japan and China in July and August.

"Be the soul of the year, Team Korea will continue to participate in trade and consumer events, conduct promotional programs for both trade, media and consumer groups and maintain print and television advertising," Durano said.

Marketing efforts

To complement DOT's marketing efforts, Durano says the country is ready to receive more Korean tourists.

The Philippines has increased its service level from Korea with 37 flights or about 12,000 seats per week. "And when the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport Terminal 3 opens within the year, this will definitely ease the congestion in our existing terminals and facilitate easy access to the country," said Ilivan.

He added that local line carriers have been approved by launching the Short and Route program last year in Iloilo. Ceremonial Terminal and Mactan International Airport. Korean-speaking attendants are now stationed at the arrival areas of these airports to provide assistance to Korean visitors.

To address the safety concerns of tourists, DOT has tied up with the Department of National Defense, Philippine Navy and other government and private agencies. Task force Ilivan says are the country's coastal and inland resort destinations, while the Security for Tourism Operation Program aims to enhance disaster coordination and reassures preparedness among tourism stakeholders.

RP delegation

A 70-member Philippine delegation consisting of tourism stakeholders, cultural performers and marketing officials of participating government agencies and local units joined Durano in his Korea trip.

To accommodate participants, DOT received 20 booth spaces totaling 180 sq m at the COEX Atlantic Hall. The Philippine exhibition area was accentuated by visuals of the country's popular tourist destinations. The entertainment component featured Filipino dances by Diwayan Productions, a Flores de Mayo and a balloon show of Team Palmer collections using native fabrics and accessories.

Sen Miguel Corp., on the other hand, provided free beverages to visitors of the Philippine booth.

The Philippine travel trade presentation at Lotte Hotel was attended by over 150 Korean travel agents and key officials of various tourism offices like the Korea Tourism Association, Korea Association of Travel Agents, Hana Tour, Modu Tour, Freedom Tour, Lotte Tour, Hyundai Green Tour and Hanwha Tourmall. Fifty media representatives from Donga Ilbo, Joongo Ilbo, Hankyung Ilbo, Korea Times, Busan Travel Information Times and Global Travel Times were also present in the event.

Durano was upbeat about the turnout. "I am quite optimistic that our participation in this year's Kotfa will secure for the Philippines a larger share of the 10 million Koreans outbound travelers and enable us to achieve our target of half a million Korean tourist arrivals by the end of 2005."

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CHAMPION Production's cultural troupe performs the "Flores de Mayo" at the COEX Hall in Seoul

MODELS Raphael Kiefer (Miss Europe), Marilyn Marlondo, Joanne Maris Felisilda, Mutsumi Morudo, Sonia Santiago and Margaret Ann Bayot don the creations of Mona Palmos (BB. Inocencio)

LEO Flores, president of Philippine Tour Operators Association and general manager of Leisure Travel Co., with Renee Marie Reyes, OIC, Office of Tourism Coordination

STANDING, Allan Villacino, Mark Anthony Lapuz Jr., Kristian Narvaez (director, Chimera Productions), Richard Insuste and Annabelle Judith Lopez. Front row: Jenna Karenina Quiroz, Angie Monares and Luzes Santos

OFFICE of Tourism Coordination OIC Renee Marie Reyes, Team Korea market specialist Ill Lemos; fg: craft demonstrator Alex Hasral; Department of Tourism Korea marketing manager Kim Min Hyo; DOT Korea marketing assistant Seok Oh; and Team Korea head Marlene Ebron

AMALIA Mendoza, senior sales manager, Manila Diamond Hotel; Andre Salcedo, senior sales account manager, Century Park Village Resort; Mark Mercado, director of sales and marketing, The Peninsula Resort Hotel; Mark Mario, supervisor, Passenger Sales Division, South East Airlines

LEITH GAMO Rivera, director of sales, Century Park Hotel; Mats Raymond Rafols, senior sales manager, Manila Pavilion Hotel; Jo Ann Castillo, sales and marketing manager, Waterfront Hotels and Casino; Ferdinand de Leon, sales account manager, Century Park Hotel

SUZANNE Dino, sales account executive, Plantation Bay Resort & Spa; Clarence Estabaya, sales manager, Plantation Bay Resort & Spa; Jennifer Mendoza, Bexco Convention Bureau; Elson Tecson, senior sales manager, Pearl Farm Beach Resort; Susan Palad-Llantos Marquez, operations manager, New World Travel Corporation

Sunday LIFESTYLE

BERMUDA Tonic draws upon the sophistication and elegance of the original Aramis scent

Daddy's choices

Cologne is a perfect gift idea if you believe in the power of scent and the images it can evoke

By Belle V. Bandoy

THINKING of what to give dad on his special day?

Well, cologne is a perfect gift idea if you believe in the power of scent and the images it can evoke. A no-nonsense grooming product is also a great pick, especially if the recipient takes pride in his body odor/scent.

If you want dad to feel sensual yet sexy yet, functional, Geoderma, a French brand, is a good choice. This "all-testing new scent for men" embodies subtle hints and fresh undertones. It was created in 1983 by an Antarctic, Tanguy Bulteau.

Schweizer was just an ordinary consumer in search of cologne he could wear without causing him skin irritations or asthma attacks. So he developed this dream cologne for his own consumption—without a name and a commercial home. He began to sense it everywhere, and it became the talk of people he met.

Intrigued, he found his home-made perfume an "arresting fragrance," and envisioned it to enhance the genetic traits for a French performance.

From a single scent, Geoderma now offers a full line of fragrances, plus a hair and body shampoo (P695) and a couture deodorant (P695). The brand has also become identified with prominent personalities like Tom Cruise, Hugh Grant, Sharon Stone and Brooke Shields, among others.

Scent of the sea

If dad wants something light yet powerful, there's the Bermuda Tonic from Aramis, the brand specifically designed for mature men.

According to Raymond Matta, vice president of Corporate Fragrance Development for the Estee Lauder Companies, Bermuda Tonic embraces a casual elegance and a feeling of easy comfort. The fresh citrus scent inspires the feeling of being in a place every woman would want their man to be—a place where he can relax and be himself.

Bermuda Tonic draws upon the sophistication and elegance of the original Aramis scent. As refreshing as your favorite summer drink, the scent captures the atmosphere of Bermuda-bound sun.

It combines a burst of Fresh Crisp Green Notes with touches of Citrus and Eucalyptus Flower. Rum, Mild and Soft Wood notes provide a contrasting sensual note. The scent comes in 60ml (P1,750) and 120ml (P2,450) bottles.

Look good, feel good

Clarins Men's line introduces the Anti-Bell Shave Shine Free Gel.

Like all Clarins products, this shine-free gel taps into the healing and rejuvenating properties of plants, using natural extracts.

The product contains silica, which works as a filter to absorb excess sebum (oil) and minimizes to light reflecting shiny; salicylic acid, known for its purifying properties that help control blemishes and improve skin texture; and glycerine, bitter grass and galanga, which all help in maintaining moisture since daily shaving can be harsh on the skin.

The Shine-Free Gel promises to restore the skin's optimum moisture level without the feeling of greasiness that so many men hate. Men with oily skin can benefit from this oil-free shaving gel.

For best results, apply every morning after shaving. A few drops applied on the skin are all it takes to restore a matte and clean after-shave appearance.

All products are available at Rustan's leading

GENDARME. This "arresting new scent for men"

CEDRO
After Shave

CEDRO Gift Set

Home spa pampering for men

By Gilda Cadic,
son of Lina Joyce Cadic

A HOME spa line for men? Not as far-fetched as people once thought, now that personal grooming and wellness have become an all-important component of urban survival among males.

Acca Kappa, the 133-year-old Italian brand famous for its precious line of personal care products such as soaps, bath crystals and oils, grooming kits and shaving products, colognes and other fragrances, is evolving with this trend by coming up with a spa line specifically designed for men's needs.

Acca Kappa products are only the finest natural ingredients derived through an environmentally sound process. Three exotic ingredients include honey, grass and wheat germ, as well as plant extracts such as white mulberry, St. John's Wort and aloe. This nourishing all-natural body care products are guaranteed to cleanse, soothe and pamper the body to the best possible way.

But for its latest spa line for men called the Cedro collection, Acca Kappa focused on tapping the benefits of cedarwood (Juniperus Virginiana), a scanty, slow growing species of fragrant wood whose oil, derived from the tree's bark, is noted for its astringent and antiseptic qualities.

Cedarwood oil is said to be among the first essential oils to be used by the ancient Egyptians in their mummification process. It was also an important component of their cosmetics and skincare substances.

Acca Kappa's Cedro collection makes use of cedarwood oil combined with other organic ingredients for a luxurious line of grooming products that include Cedar After-Shave (100 mL, P443), Cedar Shave Foam (200 mL, P600), Cedar After Shave Emulsion (100 mL, P443), Cedar Shaved Shampoo (10.4 oz, P495), Cedar Vegetable Soap (3.5 oz, P165) and Cedar-Lavolo Cologne (3.38 oz, P1,450).

CEDRO Shave Foam

CEDRO Soap

CEDRO Cologne

CEDRO Shampoo

The After Shave Emulsion contains the natural extracts of ginseng and aloe leaves. It provides effective soothing and moisturizing action to prevent irritation and redness caused by shaving.

The Shampoo, on the other hand, is a dual-purpose product. As a shower gel, it imparts a pleasant and energetic sensation. As a shampoo, it is ideal for deep-cleansing while caressing the hair follicles. Delicate enough for everyday use, this product contains the active properties of natural fruits mixed with cedarwood essences.

Cedarwood oil is also effective against scalp problems such as dandruff, alopecia and seborrhoea. The dry woody aroma is also an invigorating scent, clearing the mind and easing away nervous tensions.

For men who want their grooming essentials in a handy, convenient package, there's the Cedar Gift Set (P995), which contains in one gift box a three-piece, no-after shave and a vegetable-based soap. Now they get the unique Acca Kappa natural spa experience anywhere they go.

The Acca Kappa Cedro collection is available at Harriet's Emporium.

CEDRO Shave Emulsion

Five minutes to healthy skin

HOW LONG does it take on average for to groom and prep himself for the day ahead?

Even in the era of so-called metrosexuals, or those men who take their personal care a tad more seriously than their no-frill brethren, it's safe to say that most in general still prefer a quick and hassle-free bathroom routine—the former, the better.

Dermalogica, a skincare system researched and developed by the International Dermal Institute based in Los Angeles, California, is not about to abandon these hard-core gentlemen by catering only to metrosexuals and their extensive grooming requirements.

The brand's latest innovation is a Skin Kit for Men that promises "Five Minutes to Healthy Skin." Within those five minutes, Dermalogica is offering a complete 5-step skin-stimulation daily personal care routine in five easy steps, using five specially formulated products.

Those products, by order of use, are the Special Cleansing Gel, Skin Prep Scrub, Pre-Shave Shave, Active Moist and Medicated Cleansing Gel. All these products are contained in one handy box with easy-to-follow instructions detailed at the back.

The five-minute routine starts with the Special Cleansing Gel, an acid-balanced foaming concentrate that cleans the face without irritation, leaving the skin feeling fresh and healthy. Rinse away with then face with the same pleasing but soap they use on their hands and body. This can strip away much-needed moisture and lead to flaky skin and other problems. The Special Cleansing Gel is soap free, and is designed to thoroughly remove excess oil and impurities without drying the skin.

Up next is the Skin Prep Scrub, a skin polishing catalyst with tiniest grains that re-shapes imperfections like sponge or other fruit seeds, pits or shells common to most scrubs) that removes dulling surface debris. The scrub, to be used before shaving, employs gentle, naturally rounded corncob meal particles, which loosen dead skin cells and lift hairs away from the skin for a smooth, gentle shave.

After prepping the skin, it's time for the Pre-Shave Shave Oil. Unlike conventional soaps or foamy aerosols, this ultra-smooth shaving product contains the essential oils of soothing botanicals and organic silicones to cushion the sweep of the shaving blade and prevent razor burn. Only a few drops of this dense and aromatic product are needed for an amazingly close shave.

Most men think moisturizing isn't essential, for, in addition to helping keep the skin in tip-top shape every day by preventing the appearance of fine lines and dry skin, Dermalogica's Active Moist—a lightweight, oil-free moisturizer that is absorbed by the skin without a trace—is also a good evening treatment for the beard area, allowing for a really clean shave in the morning.

The last step in the routine involves the application of the Medicated Cleansing Gel, a few drops of which, left overnight, can help clear existing acne blemishes and improve hairy, acne-up skin bacteria and regulate oil production to prevent future breakouts.

Clean, scrub, shave, restore and tone. Five steps in five minutes, and guys are once again ready to face the world.

As Jane Wurwand, founder of Dermalogica, puts it, "Professional skincare is not about pampering or indulgence. [But about] calming and preventing problems. Men get the idea instantly when it's put in those terms."

Gilda Cadiz

Dermalogica is available at Harriet's Emporium.

DERMALOGICA
Skin Kit For Men